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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19169

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1996 • TEVET 17, 5756 • SHAABAN 18, 1416

NIS 4.20 (EILAT NIS 3.60)

Cites agency failure to prevent Rabin assassination GSS head resigns after 10 months on job

OC Central Command Ilan Biran preferred candidate to take over

ON LEVY and agencies

THE head of the General Security Services resigned yesterday after only 10 months on the job, because of the agency's failure to prevent the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in a statement that he accepted the resignation "with regret" at the insistence of the GSS head, who can only be identified by the first initial of his first name, K.

Although K., who spent 26

years in the GSS, was its first head to be considered an expert on Jewish radicalism rather than Arab terror, he was accused by critics of having failed to adequately deal with the possibility that a Jew would try to kill the premier.

In his resignation letter, excerpted in Peres's statement, K. said he was stepping down because "the failure that resulted in the terrible murder was first and foremost that of the service." But he denied personal wrongdoing and vowed to "continue to defend myself."

During his tenure, the GSS also scored many successes. His

resignation immediately followed the assassination of arch-terrorist Ythye Ayyash, "The Engineer," which was widely attributed to the GSS, and the service's revelation it had captured Abed Belbays, the man who planned the Beit Lid bombings.

"It is good that he leaves office with the glory of the operation attributed to the GSS," said Gidon Ezra, a former deputy GSS chief.

K., 45, married and the father of three, was born in Jerusalem and is the fifth generation of his family in the country. He was very close to Ya'acov Perry, his

(Continued on Page 2)

OC CENTRAL Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran is the preferred candidate to become the new head of the General Security Service, senior sources at the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday.

Sources in Jerusalem believe that an outsider has a better chance of being named to the post than someone inside the service. This would be a first, as all previous GSS chiefs have come from its ranks.

When K. was appointed last year, several senior GSS officers resigned, after deciding their promotional paths had been permanently blocked. Most of the current branch heads, appointed by K., are relatively young. Even his deputy R., is believed to be too inexperienced.

Biran is due to complete his term as the head of Central Command in April. In the past he has denied being interested in the GSS post, but the sources said they believe he would now

ON LEVY and Ilan

accept it.

Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres, who is directly responsible for the GSS, will soon begin a series of consultations to find a replacement for K. The sources in Peres's office said the prime minister had refrained from searching for such a replacement until now.

"Peres believed that the current GSS chief should continue; he believed in the resigning chief and really wanted him to stay on," a source said.

Most of those mooted for the position so far are former or current IDF major-generals. Among them is the prime minister's military secretary, Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom - who is also believed to be interested in heading the Mossad. Others mentioned include Uri Saguy, Yitzhak Mordechai, and Amos Yaron.

The first two, however, are not likely to get the post, having recently indicated their political preferences after joining Labor and the Likud, respectively. Yaron is believed to have little chance.

Another option would be to recall a former GSS chief to fill temporarily to provide stability. Avraham Ahituv, who headed the GSS between 1974-81, was mentioned as a possibility.

There is a precedent for this: In 1986, when Avraham Shalom resigned following the Bus No. 300 incident, Peres, who was then prime minister, called on one of Shalom's predecessors, Yosef Harmelin, to fill in temporarily. Harmelin served for two years until Ya'acov Perry, K.'s predecessor, was appointed.

Another option is to ask Perry to return to the post for a short period.

'Commission would have asked K. to quit'

BILL HUTMAN

THE resignation of the GSS head yesterday probably only preempted by several weeks a recommendation by the Shamgar Commission that he step down.

Sources close to the commission said K. is likely to be found responsible for the failure of the GSS to protect prime minister Yitzhak Rabin the night he was murdered.

Those findings were likely to be followed by the recommendation the GSS chief resign, the sources said.

"The sources emphasized the commission's inquiry will continue as scheduled.

The commission's hearings are to continue three or four more

weeks, with a report detailing the findings released soon afterwards, the sources said.

Last month, K. - along with five other GSS officers and one police officer - was issued a warning letter by the commission detailing his alleged failures in running the service.

The commission's letters to the GSS chief and other officers included a specific warning that disciplinary and legal action may be recommended against them.

The GSS head "was not as diligent as he should have been in overseeing the organization's operations," the commission wrote.

He apparently "did not check the information relating to the possibility of an attack on the prime minister by Jewish extremists."

He also did not "act as was required in guiding the operations of the VIP protection unit to reflect... the dangers that existed to those being guarded."

The commission emphasized these findings were initial, and that K. would be given the chance to defend himself and bring witnesses before the commission to testify on his behalf.

But the commission also made clear the seriousness of the allegations, stating the initial findings show he "apparently did not

(Continued on Page 2)



Two men ski by NY's Times Square yesterday during the city's third-worst blizzard in history, which closed all airports. Story, Page 5.

Jihad leader: Israel to pay price for Ayyash

LIAI COLLINS, JON IMMANUEL, and news agencies

THE leader of Islamic Jihad, Ramadan Shallah, warned yesterday that Israel would pay "a heavy price" for the deaths of Ythye Ayyash and Fathi Shkaki.

Shallah was chosen to head Islamic Jihad after Shkaki, its previous leader, was assassinated in Malta in October. His group blames the slaying on the Mossad.

In an interview conducted at Islamic Jihad's office in Damascus, Shallah said the killings would "accelerate jihad and attacks against Israeli targets."

"The Israelis have to know that they should also pay a price for their terrorism. It will be a heavy price and will be as heavy as the assassination of both leaders: Shkaki and Ayyash," Shallah said. Prime Minister Shimon Peres

refused to comment directly, when asked if Israel had a role in the assassination of Ayyash, but added, "If somebody thinks that he can kill Israelis and Israel will remain indifferent, that's a slight exaggeration."

Peres dismissed charges that the assassination placed FLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in a difficult position. Peres said Israel has done everything it could to boost Arafat's standing by withdrawing from West Bank towns according to the promised timetable.

"I think the uncomfortable situation was created by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, not by Israel," Peres told reporters. "We did whatever we could to create a comfortable position for Arafat."

Later, Peres told the Labor faction, "When I saw Ythye Ayyash's funeral on television and I saw the Palestinian policemen there, I said to myself, 'Thank God that it's not our police.'"

Meanwhile, the wife of Kamal Hamad, suspected by Gazans of delivering the booby-trapped cellular phone which killed Ayyash, said yesterday that her husband did not flee to the US on Friday, but left for the US last Tuesday, three days before the explosion.

His wife told Channel 2 reporter Suleiman Shafi that Hamad was not involved in the elimination of Ayyash and did not have close relations with Israel.

But as a contractor, he would have had frequent contact with

the civil administration to receive necessary building permits during the years of Israeli rule.

Hamad, 42, the father of 18, speaks Hebrew well and was interviewed over the past two years by Efrat Michaeli for *Uvda*, the Channel 2 documentary series, and by Israel Radio. He was critical of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and said raising a large family was his way of fighting Israel.

Security sources denied Hamad's involvement in the killing.

Meanwhile, in Halhoul, Hamas held a large rally in memory of Ayyash and against the Palestinian elections. One of the organizers was Nayef Rajoub, younger brother of Jibril Rajoub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security in the West Bank.

Barak, Arafat hold talks in Paris

PARIS (Reuter) - Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and PLO leader Yasser Arafat met French leaders yesterday and were due to hold private talks despite tension between the PLO and Israel over the killing of Ythye Ayyash.

Officials said the two were to meet late last night at a Paris hotel. Today they will attend a meeting with representatives of some 50 donor nations and organizations helping fund the PA.

Full reports, Page 8

Peres pays tribute to Mitterrand

GREER FAY CASHMAN

FRANCOIS Mitterrand, France's former Socialist president who deftly outmaneuvered opponents on the left and right to lead France from 1981 to 1995, died yesterday at 79.

His death was a personal blow to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, with whom he shared both a political vision and a long-standing friendship.

In a moving tribute to Mitterrand, Peres described him as "one of the most outstanding leaders of the 20th century."

It was not easy to become a great leader in a time of peace, said Peres, noting that great leaders are usually seen in times of war when their mistakes can be hidden behind censorship laws.

Mitterrand was keenly appreciative of nature, literature, history, and the arts, said Peres, and he was very well informed on the history of the Jewish people. "He was a good friend of Israel and a supporter of the peace pro-



Francois Mitterrand (Isaac Harari)

cess," he said.

To illustrate Mitterrand's friendship for Israel, Peres referred to the period prior to the

bombing of the nuclear reactor in Iraq. At Israel's request, Mitterrand had promised that France would send no more uranium to Iraq. It was a promise that he kept.

But the most enduring, far more personal memory that Peres will cherish is of a luncheon at the Elysee Palace, where he learned from Mitterrand's physician that he had been diagnosed two days earlier as having cancer.

The physician had wanted to hospitalize him immediately, but Mitterrand had refused and insisted on keeping his luncheon appointment with Peres.

Mitterrand is to be buried on Thursday, after a private funeral, in a family tomb at Jarnac, his birthplace in southwestern France.

President Ezer Weizman is expected to attend the funeral as part of a series of state visits which begin tomorrow.

Bathsheva Tsar contributed to this report.
Mitterrand, Page 4

Assad hails atmosphere of Maryland talks

DAMASCUS (Reuter) - Syria's recent talks with Israel were conducted in a better atmosphere than previous negotiations, President Hafez Assad said yesterday, according to his spokesman Joubran Kouziak.

"President Assad pointed out that the talks, which were held in the US, were conducted in a bet-

ter atmosphere than before," Kouziak said.

Assad's remarks are his first comment on the talks, which resumed in Maryland after a six-month hiatus.

The Syrian leader is due to meet US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will visit Damascus later this week as part

of a regional tour to follow up the Maryland talks.

Christopher was forced to cancel a scheduled departure for Paris to attend the donor conference, and will instead fly directly to Israel tomorrow where he will meet with PM Shimon Peres.

William Perry meets Peres, Page 2

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K.'s resignation draws mixed reaction from ministers, MKs

LIAT COLLINS and agencies

MINISTERS, MKs and security personnel quickly responded to the resignation of the General Security Service chief, K., although reaction was mixed.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal said the service is "losing one of the most capable and talented men." He called for a new chief to be speedily appointed, "whether from within or outside GSS ranks."

"He was a dedicated person, and we in the police will miss one of the best friends we've had. I think the nation owes a great debt to the GSS head. He has done a lot to try to stabilize the security services at a very critical time," Shahal said.

He said he did not believe K.'s decision to resign was directly linked to the developments in the Shamgar Commission's inquiry into the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. "I understand the move, but don't agree with it. As a country, we don't appreciate leaders. We didn't show any appreciation for Moses, and we didn't appreciate K."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a member of the Interministerial Committee on the GSS, said he regretted the decision, but added that it was "probably inevitable."

Justice Minister David Liba'i said K.'s decision should be respected. "He drew his own conclusions and resigned," he said. Labor Knesset faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen, who has recently called for the GSS chief's resignation, praised the "wise decision which will allow him to defend himself and the GSS to defend us."

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Haggai Me-

rom (Labor) said he respected the decision. "Now the GSS leadership must be rebuilt," he said.

Meretz faction chairman Ran Cohen, a member of the subcommittee on secret services, expressed regret at the decision.

"The GSS is a strong body and will stand firm in a crisis, despite the hard personal loss of an excellent officer. I'm full of awe for the GSS head for not giving in to brutal public pressure, but only to his own conscience and scruples."

Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said it was an example of the operational level accepting responsibility, instead of the ministerial level.

Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) called the resignation "a necessity" following Rabin's assassination and "the operation of GSS agents, which meant he was walking the tightrope between operational and political levels."

In the GSS itself, the resignation was received with understanding and sadness. Senior sources there said that his resignation had been expected in light of the Rabin assassination. "K.'s leaving is a hard blow to the service, but we will know how to recover from it. K. did excellent work and won the appreciation of many," one source said.

Top IDF brass were also sad about the resignation, with a senior IDF source saying: "In the past year, we worked together on many projects. K. is an honest and brave man, who gives those around him a sense of security. It was a treat to work opposite and with him."

On Levy contributed to this report.



Visiting US Defense Secretary William Perry flies over Jerusalem in an air force helicopter yesterday.

Perry: US willing to send troops to Golan

LIAT COLLINS, GREER FAY CASHMAN, and news agencies

THE US is prepared to send troops to the Golan Heights to bolster a peace agreement, if both Syria and Israel request help, US Defense Secretary William Perry said yesterday.

"If the peace agreement between Israel and Syria is reached, which we hope and believe will happen, and if that calls for a peace monitoring force on the Golan Heights, and if both Israel and Syria request the US participation in that, we are prepared to do that," he told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Peres, speaking to a Foreign Press Association luncheon, conditionally accepted the proposal, saying a multinational force for the Golan should be modeled after the one sent to Sinai after Israel's withdrawal under the peace treaty with Egypt.

The US is one of a dozen nations that provides troops for the 2,400-member Sinai

force.

Such a force, Peres said, would provide "a multinational presence that guarantees the continuation of peace without endangering the soldiers who are present there."

Peres said he was not asking for a fighting force that would defend Israel, but a symbolic presence.

"We have never asked for American soldiers to defend our lives, and we are not going to ask this sort of participation in the future," he said.

A peace force on the Golan would reassure Israelis and deter Syrians, he said.

"An international or multinational force may give an additional guarantee to the public opinion in Israel, and that's a good reason for any future Syrian leader not to turn back to

the whole business of belligerence," he said.

Peres also told the Labor Knesset faction that "the negotiations with Syria are not just a matter of the Golan Heights, but an opportunity for the end of wars in the Middle East. An opportunity has been created to end the wars, and we won't give up on that easily," he said.

"Not only Syria's aspirations, but also Israel's were discussed" at the talks in Maryland. Maps, water sources, financial aid and security arrangements were not presented, he added.

"Israel is not dealing with threats, but with peace, and wants a chance for peace with Syria," Peres said. He added he would like an alternative to the oft-quoted equation "peace for territories," because "we are giving territory, which is a concrete object, while we'll be receiving peace, which is something promised [not concrete]."

Oslo 2 bill passes its first reading in Knesset

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset last night passed, 41-32, on first reading the bill on the implementation of Oslo 2. Shas MKs were absent from the plenum.

The bill is intended to legislate different aspects of the Oslo 2 agreement, including a clause to allow Arab residents of east Jerusalem to vote in post offices there.

The discussion itself was marked by raised voices and heckling which recalled the period before the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

Before the plenum debate, the Knesset spent hours arguing about the interpretation of the House Rules on whether the vote could be seen as a no-confidence motion, as the opposition demanded, or a motion of confidence in the government, as the coalition wanted. A no-confidence motion would have postponed the vote by another week, while a confidence motion means the vote takes place the same day.

The opposition wanted to delay the vote to disrupt the Palestinian Authority elections, scheduled to take place January 20. The bill must pass all three readings for the elections to take place as planned.

After frantic meetings, and following the House Committee's decision to accept the government's request for a motion of confidence and to rule out the possibility of a filibuster, as the opposition wanted, the debate began.

Justice Minister David Liba'i presented the government's call for the bill to be passed. The government's stand is the agreement has been internationally accepted and must be observed.

Opposition speakers criticized not only the bill and Oslo accords but also the government's handling of the bill's passage. They said the government had trampled on Knesset procedure and democracy. Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu said Jerusalem's status would be harmed by the bill.

Deputy speaker Ovadia Eli (Likud) said he had absent himself from the Knesset president's meeting on the handling of the bill to protest the fact the House Rules had been ignored. At the end of the debate, it was decided the House Committee would determine to which committee the bill will be referred for preparation for second and third readings.

The Likud is still contemplating further maneuvers to stall passage.

Peres: Election date will stay as is

LIAT COLLINS

"WE'RE not dealing with bringing forward the elections; we're dealing with promoting peace," Prime Minister Shimon Peres told the Labor Knesset faction at its weekly meeting yesterday.

The main thrust of the meeting was that the government must continue the peace process and not deal with domestic election issues.

The focus was equally divided between the two issues, following a morning radio interview in which faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen said he would agree to a proposal to bring the elections forward.

Peres publicly chastised Cohen for having said he would be prepared to bring forward the elections if the Likud also agreed to it.

Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav said in the same radio interview he would be prepared to cooperate on a bill to bring the elections forward, although the timing would not be convenient for either party.

Peres made it clear that he

does not support such a move.

Speaking earlier to members of the Foreign Press Association, Peres said, "It was Moshe Katsav who suggested early elections, not me. In accordance with the law, we have to hold elections on October 29, and it is my role as prime minister to uphold the law."

Peres was adamant that unless there is an "overriding reason" to bring the elections forward, the date will remain as scheduled.

If a full agreement is reached with Syria, he said, "we'll bring it to a referendum before the elections. That was our commitment, and we intend to respect it."

Cohen clarified he had made no promises regarding early elections and would do nothing before a faction discussion.

"The Likud should stop threatening us with early elections," Cohen said.

Haggai Merom said talk of early elections is harmful to the negotiations with Syria. "There's a

chance for a peace agreement in 1996. Any talk of bringing the elections forward sabotages the process," he said.

"On the same reasoning, I could say why the elections should be brought forward, it could speed up the negotiations," said Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret in an aside.

Yael Dayan said both the negotiations and the elections should be left to the prime minister to decide.

Avi Yehzekel and Yoram Lass both said talk of early elections confuses the public.

Elsewhere in the Knesset, the National Religious Party announced it would not initiate early elections, but would not object to such a proposal.

Tsomet welcomed the suggestion to bring the elections forward. Party leader Rafael Eitan said the government should also announce that it will take no steps necessitating public approval before the elections.

Greer Fay Cashman contributed to this report.

Goldfarb wants to rent out empty housing in 3 settlements

HERB KEINON

DEPUTY Housing Minister Alex Goldfarb plans to issue a directive allowing people to move into empty government-owned homes in Karnei Shomron in Samaria, and Alei Sinai and Nisanit in the northern Gaza Strip, according to a letter he wrote to Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer yesterday.

There are currently hundreds of government-owned apartments which, because of the freeze imposed on housing in the settlements, remain empty in these three settlements.

Goldfarb said in the letter that it is a waste of taxpayer's money to keep the housing units empty, and have to pay for security guards to ensure they are not vandalized.

Goldfarb said the units should be rented out, with a stipulation made in the contracts that if there is a change in the political situation, the residents will be willing to move out within 90 days.

But according to Zvi Hendel, head of the Gaza Council Regional Council, Goldfarb's directive, although "important," will not have much of an impact on the two settlements in Gaza. For instance, he said, the apartments available in Nisanit are not of a standard that will attract people to the settlement.

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Clinton reassures Lebanese on sovereignty

DAVID RUDGE

IDF gunners blasted Hizbullah targets north of the security zone yesterday after a long-range attack on an army convoy in the Beaufort castle region.

There were no reports of any casualties among IDF or South Lebanese Army troops in the region as a result of the mortar attack on the convoy.

Reports from Lebanon said IDF gunners fired scores of shells at targets north of the zone in response to the mortar fire.

The shooting yesterday followed two abortive roadside bombing attacks by Hizbullah against SLA targets in the zone and the Jezzine enclave to the north on Sunday.

Reports from Lebanon said a roadside bomb exploded alongside a civilian car being driven by an SLA soldier near Jezzine. The soldier was unhurt but the car was reportedly destroyed. A similar incident occurred near Huleh village, also without causing any casualties.

Meanwhile, Lebanese newspapers reported yesterday that US President Bill Clinton had categorically denied reports of any proposed deal between Syria and Israel over Lebanon's sovereignty.

There had been reports in the Hebrew and foreign press that Israel had proposed acknowledging Syria's presence in Lebanon in return for a Syrian commitment to curb Hizbullah and calm the situation in south Lebanon.

Lebanese newspapers quoted Clinton as saying that the US was committed to the "independence, sovereignty and unity of Lebanon."

The papers said Clinton's remarks were contained in a letter to the "Council of Lebanese-American Organizations," a group composed of Americans of Lebanese origin. The body had earlier sent a letter to Clinton expressing concern over the possibility of US acknowledgment of Syria's presence in Lebanon.

The newspapers quoted Clinton as saying, in his response, that he looked forward to the day when Lebanon would be at peace and liberated from all foreign forces.

"I think there is a real chance to achieve a fair and comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbors, including Lebanon," Clinton reportedly wrote to the American-Lebanese organization.

On another matter, Lebanese President Elias Harawi yesterday reiterated that UN resolution 425 - calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon - constituted the basis for a just and comprehensive peace with Israel.

He stressed that Lebanon would be responsible for ensuring peace and security in the south of the country, if or when the IDF withdrew from the security zone.

Harawi, speaking at the annual reception for the diplomatic corps in Lebanon, also stressed that Lebanon would not countenance the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon.

Ticketed MKs to have driving course

MKs will get a chance to learn defensive driving techniques today. A special course is opening at the Knesset following a number of incidents in which MKs have been involved in traffic violations.

The course for MKs and Knesset employees who have accumulated points for traffic offenses, including Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, will include issues such as driving in difficult conditions, tiredness, head-on collisions, analyzing road conditions, speeding, right-of-way, and road safety regulations.

Liav Collins

'I can now leave my post confident the GSS is recovering'

IN his letter of resignation to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the head of the General Security Service thanked Peres for his support and rejected the allegations in the warning letters he and other GSS officials received last month from the Shamgar Commission investigating the Rabin assassination. Some excerpts:

"Several days after the assassination of Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, I stood before you and the cabinet and admitted that the failure that resulted in the terrible murder was first and foremost that of the service.

"After this, I submitted my resignation. I did this guided by my belief that the management of any government institution must be above reproach...

"When you related to my accepting responsibility and my request to resign - which you rejected - you stressed the challenges facing the service, primarily the fight against Islamic terror and the need to protect the diplomatic process. You did not spare time or effort to assure service employees and myself of your full support...

"I then felt that with the service's image at its nadir, if I insisted on resigning I would be abandoning my colleagues, who did not stop fulfilling their tasks even during the tough days of mourning...

"I totally reject the charges implied in the warnings sent to me by the [Shamgar Commission]. This is why I instructed my attorney and my aides to continue defending my position before the commission... to assure that its conclusions would be in keeping with the needs, abilities, and limitations of the GSS... I now believe that I can leave my post with full confidence that the service is recovering and can carry out all its assignments." (Tim)

Passed away at the age 87 SABA CHAIM (Felix) WAHLE

and joined our mother Tutzi (grandmother Tirza) Boaz, Naama, Asaf, Yuval Ruti and Itzhaky Sheveles, Kibbutz Erez Ran, Ayala, Tamar, Yair, and Gilyana Amnon Dani and Mira Wahle, Kibbutz Yotvata Edith Soler

The funeral will take place today, January 9, 1996 (17 Tevet, 5756), at 3 p.m. at the cemetery in Holon. Meeting in the entrance. Please refrain from condolence visits.

In profound sorrow, we announce the passing of our dear AVRAHAM STERN

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, January 9, 1996, at 12 noon, at the cemetery at Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

Mourners: Wife, Mira Stern Daughter, Lea Levinson Grandson, David Levinson

GEOFFREY WINGATE 71

passed away in London, January 8, 1996. Deeply mourned by his sister Norma Shachter, brother-in-law, nieces and their families in Israel.

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CONSULATE GENERAL of GREECE ANNOUNCEMENT
The Consulate General of Greece in Jerusalem announces that its Visa Section will start operating every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., as of Monday, January 15, 1996, at the Consular Premises at 11 Nashashibi Street, Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem, Tel. (02) 828316.

مركز الأخبار

Girl, 7, dies in Jaffa fire

RIKKI Sa'adi, 7, burned to death Monday night, when a fire broke out in her family's home in a Jaffa caravan site.

Initial investigation by the Fire Department determined the fire was probably caused by a short circuit in an electric heater in the girl's bedroom. The girl apparently woke up, saw the flames engulfing her room, and tried to get out, but she was overcome by the smoke. Her body was found on the bedroom floor.

Her parents - David, 33, and Gila, 30 - managed to get out of the burning house, but were unable to save their daughter. They were treated for smoke inhalation at Wolfson Hospital in Holon.

"We heard the girl screaming, 'Help me! Help me!'" said neighbor Rabel Abu Dahan. "But we were unable to do a thing. The whole structure was burning; you couldn't get near it. I saw her father David try to rescue her, but the flames blocked his way. Gila also couldn't do anything, and the two of them stood outside crying, watching their daughter burn up."

After the fire was put out, the municipality sent a team of psychologists and social workers to the caravan site to assist the neighbors, who were all in shock. A hotel room was offered to the Sa'adis, but they went to David's parents' home. An Amidar rental apartment was later found for them in Holon.

Neighbor's complained that the Fire Department was slow in arriving, but Tel Aviv Fire Chief Aharon Eshel insisted his men had arrived within minutes of receiving the call. "We're used to complaints like this," he said. "In time of trouble, each minute seems like an eternity." (Tim)



Interior Minister Haim Ramon shows a member of an Israel Bonds rabbinical mission how to work with cement at yesterday's cornerstone-laying ceremony of Modi'in's city hall building. (Flash 90)

Ministry: This year's flu outbreak is serious

THE number of deaths from pneumonia in the first week of the month was 40 percent above the previous five-year average, an indication of the seriousness of this winter's flu outbreak, the Health Ministry said yesterday.

Seventy-one people died from it during that week, compared to 38 during the first week of January 1995, 45 during the corresponding week in 1994 and 44 in 1993. The latest major outbreak was in 1992: 82 people died of pneumonia during the first week of that year. The ministry fears that this year will be like 1992.

JUDY SIEGEL
The wave of influenza infections is likely to continue through March, the ministry said yesterday. Health officials urged people at high risk - the elderly and the chronically ill of all ages - to get a flu shot if they have not already done so this season.

The flu appeared early this winter, with the first cases isolated at the end of October. This season, three strains of flu have appeared: A(H3-N2); A(H1-N1) and B. All of these are included in this year's vaccine. Dr. Yitzhak Berlovich, head of the ministry's medical services branch, instructed hospital directors to ensure that staffers and others who are at high risk get their flu shots.

Immunization for bacterial pneumonia recommended

THE Health Ministry's advisory committee on immunizations yesterday decided to recommend that high-risk individuals be vaccinated against bacterial pneumonia. The shot, which is effective for five years, should be given to the elderly, people with weakened immune systems, those who have undergone removal of their spleen, and others not yet determined.

only a formality. If it becomes ministry policy, the health funds will likely be required to pay for the shot for high-risk individuals. Pneumonia can be caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, or rickettsiae (virus-like parasites inside the cells); only that involving bacteria can be prevented by vaccination. Nevertheless, many elderly and sickly patients die from this type of pneumonia, especially due to increasing resistance of bacteria to antibiotics. Judy Siegel

Fatal work accidents increase in '95

THE number of fatal work accidents rose to 81 in 1995, compared to 66 in 1994 and 74 in the previous year. At the same time, the overall number of work accidents decreased by an average of 5% in 1995, reaching 83,100, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said yesterday, after receiving the report from the ministry's work supervision division.

MICHAL YUDELMAN
The main cause of death was falling from heights on construction sites: 22 workers fell to their death this way, out of the 29 who died in construction accidents. Nine other workers were electrocuted, the report said.

Fourteen workers were killed when they were trapped inside plant equipment such as elevators or refrigerators. Eight were killed by falling objects, five died when structures and objects collapsed, four were run over by vehicles, and six died of burns. The circumstances of two other workers' deaths were not reported.

The number of work accidents in 1995 was 83,100, a 5% decrease for every thousand employees. The number of workers involved in accidents was reduced from an average of 42.3 for every 1,000 employees in 1994 to 40.1.

Supervision division head Hanan Sela told Namir that the division increased its activity during the past year, holding 60,500 supervision visits to work sites compared to 46,000 the previous year, concentrating most of its efforts on the construction field, where 19,300 visits were held, compared to 10,300 in 1994.

As part of the intensified activity, the ministry has employed external safety experts and set up safety committees in work places, Sela reported. Moreover, as of this year, new regulations will enable imposing an administrative tax without legal charges of NIS 3,000 for every safety violation in work places. During 1995, the ministry issued 37,000 warning notices to employers for violating safety orders and operating faulty equipment, while 430 investigation cases were opened against employers for severe safety violations.

Children's rights official slams capital lockup

BILL HUTMAN

THE animals at Jerusalem's Tisch Biblical Zoo have it better than teenage prisoners at the capital's Russian Compound lock-up, Philip Veerman, Israel director of Defense for Children International (DCI), said yesterday. "There was one cell in which the kids told us 19 people sleep at night, with only five mattresses," Veerman said, after a visit to the minors section of the jail. The cells were extremely cold, even during the daytime visit, and the bathrooms reeked despite having obviously been cleaned up before the DCI delegation arrived, according to Veerman. "Things have really improved since five or six years ago, during the intifada, when there were 100 kids here and the overcrowding was horrendous," Veerman said. However, there are still many improvements needed, he added. "The new zoo is a nicer place to stay," he said.

DCI is preparing a report on the lock-up that it plans to present to Internal Security Minister Moshe Shabul. In addition to the conditions in the cells, DCI also found that

relatives were allowed to meet with the young prisoners under very poor conditions, that allow for only partial visual contact and make it difficult to speak. Police told the delegation the metal wall and small window dividing those held there from their visitors was essential to ensure that detainees and prisoners were not given drugs or weapons. Police also rejected the allegation that one cell had 19 prisoners, saying it had only 12 - the number of beds in the cell. Police said there were only five mattresses in the cell because the youths had not asked for more, delegation members said.

Veerman said conditions at the Russian Compound were better than those of prisons he visited in the southern US, but much worse than many northern European states. Police, in response to the criticism, released a statement admitting there were problems at the lock-up - which is supposed to hold only those waiting trial - because convicted prisoners are also being held there for lack of space in the nation's regular prisons.

ACRI charges: Police beat bound prisoner

EVELYN GORDON

A BOUND prisoner was beaten by policemen in front of an Association for Civil Rights in Israel staffer, ACRI said in a complaint to the Justice Ministry's division for investigating policemen. The complaint was filed by Orna Cohen, of Haifa, a trainee lawyer with ACRI. While sitting at home late last Tuesday night, she suddenly heard a man screaming for help and begging to be taken to the hospital. She ran out of her house and saw three plainclothesmen surrounding the screaming man, who was lying on the sidewalk.

One of the policemen began stomping on the man's body, and another began hitting him, Cohen said. The second policeman then hauled him up and began shaking him violently, she said. Afterward, the policeman let the prisoner fall to the ground, and the man lay without moving. However, he groaned repeatedly, begging the policeman to remove his coat so he could breathe and to take him to the hospital. Cohen said the man was bleeding from the mouth and nose.

When Cohen came closer, she saw that the man's hands were

bound. She demanded to know the policemen's identities, but they refused to tell her, and ordered her to leave. About 10 more policemen then arrived and stood between her and the prisoner to prevent her from seeing what was happening, she said. They then repeated their order to her to leave. "We are conducting an investigation, and you don't need to see or hear what we are doing or saying," they said, according to Cohen. An unmarked car then came to take the prisoner away. Cohen filed a complaint with the division for investigating policemen the next day; but it was located the prisoner only 48 hours later, when he was brought to court for a remand hearing. The man, whose identity ACRI does not want to reveal, was charged with breaking and entering.

When ACRI representatives went to visit the prisoner in the police lock-up the following day, he appeared badly battered and complained of sharp pains, and charged that he was not getting appropriate medical treatment. The division for investigating policemen is still looking into the matter, ACRI said.

UNESCO official: Israel a leader in science, education

BATSEVA TSUR

ISRAEL may be the leading country in the teaching of science and technology today, Colin Power, assistant director-general for education at UNESCO, said yesterday.

He was speaking at the opening of the Jerusalem International Science and Technology Conference, being held under the auspices of UNESCO at the International Convention Center in the capital. Twenty ministers and seven deputy ministers are attending the four-day Conference of Education Ministers being held within the framework of JISTEC. They come from countries including Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, China, Ethiopia, Germany, Iceland, Nepal, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, Togo, and Vietnam.

The ministers will spend the four days coordinating cooperation for scholastic hi-tech development and will tour educational facilities in different parts of the country.

Close to 900 researchers, academics, and educators from 80 countries are attending JISTEC. Power praised the sweeping changes made by the Israeli government in all areas of education and linked the progress in science and technology to the late Yitzhak Rabin who, he said, personally spearheaded the changes since 1992. "In Israel, there's a new era. We

can see how people who were former enemies now have learned to live together," he said. In science, people must share and cooperate too, he added.

"A revolution has taken place... one of education for all," said Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who is hosting the event. "We are currently in the middle of the biggest technological revolution since Gutenberg's invention [of the printing press]."

President Ezer Weizman said that our forefathers had tried to build the country "not only on strength, but on spirit and education." He called on academics and professionals to pool their talents to provide answers to today's problems.

Sri Lankan air force gets Israeli fighters

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - The air force has acquired several modern jet fighters from Israel as the military continued to build up its strength to fight the civil war against Tamil Tiger rebels, military officials said Monday. After the guerrillas broke a truce and scuttled peace talks last April, military teams have many countries, including the United States, Britain, China and Russia on a massive shopping spree for arms.

The government increased defense spending for 1996 to \$725 million from \$609m. last year. Three Israeli-built "Kfir" fighters and three Ukrainian-built Mi-17 transport helicopters arrived by ship on Sunday and were taken to Colombo's international airport, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The military has already received gunboats from China and Israel, and planes and helicopters from the Ukraine. Several more gunboats are to be delivered from the US, Russia, China and Israel in the next few months.





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250 die in Zaire crash

Cargo plane slams into market in capital

A ZAIREAN cargo plane crashed into a crowded market in the center of the Zaire capital Kinshasa yesterday, killing 250 people, rescuers said.

Most of the victims were women and children packing the downtown market of corrugated iron and wooden shacks.

"We found 217 bodies at the market," said Vincent Nicod of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). "I think there are 32 more bodies at hospital morgues in the town. So I don't think there are less than 250 people in all."

Reuters journalists saw rescuers pull bodies from the wreck of the Antonov and the corrugated iron and wooden shacks that made up the market.

Many of the bodies were mutilated. The plane ploughed through the market for about 100 meters before it came to a halt. It belched flames and clouds of black smoke.

A fire crew from the nearby Ndolo airport from where the plane took off tried to

MATTHEW TOSTEVIN
KINSHASA

dampen the flames.

Wreckage from the aircraft was scattered across the site.

A Reuters television cameraman saw four crew members, believed to be Russian, leave the plane before it burst into flames.

"We understand the crew was Russian but we don't know where they are or what their condition is," a Russian embassy spokesman said.

Red Cross workers with blood stained stretchers joined soldiers and local volunteers. With plastic bags on their hands they picked up the bodies and the mutilated pieces. A child's head lay severed on a sheet of corrugated iron.

Tears streamed down the faces of the workers, in part from the acrid smoke still pouring from the crash and obviously from the sheer horror of the scene.

The exact number of wounded will be difficult to determine, rescuers said.

"We evacuated 40 wounded but there were many more who left in private vehicles. So we can't really tell how many there were," Nicod told Reuters at the crash scene.

The dead were lined up in two rows, covered in blankets. Wailing women stood by. Others lifted up the blankets in the search for friends or relatives.

"The aircraft tried to take off but it only got a few meters off the ground, then it disappeared and there was an explosion," said Gothie Mukoka, who was at the airfield when the plane took off.

A Zairean air force colonel who was also at the airport said the aircraft appeared to be overloaded.

Last month a Lockheed Electra passenger plane owned by another private Zaire firm crashed in Angola killing 141 people.

Zaire's transportation minister said he believed it was overloaded. (Reuters)



Francois Mitterrand waves to a Paris crowd during his inaugural motorcade after winning the presidency in 1981. (Reuters)

Britain awaits word of the three mystery lottery winners

LONDON (Reuters) - The winners of Britain's biggest lottery jackpot lay low yesterday as organizers tried to weed out hoaxers seeking a share in the £42 million payout.

Camelot, the company that operates the weekly lottery, said three winners would split Saturday's record jackpot, but there was no sight of the new millionaires by yesterday.

Two winners had called in but both requested anonymity, no doubt scared off by the frenzied media coverage accorded past winners. The holder of the third winning ticket had yet to come forward.

"With there being so much interest in the draw I would have imagined that by now most people would have checked their tickets. We don't know if they're

just playing it cool," said a Camelot spokeswoman.

Anyone claiming the jackpot, an individual or a syndicate will be asked a series of testing questions to make sure they are genuine. "We get a number of hoaxers, so we need to make sure we've got the right person," the spokeswoman said.

Camelot has already begun counseling sessions with the one winner to come forward, hoping to ward off any more bad stories of the type that have plagued Britain's year-old lottery.

"We talk winners through the win and how to cope with it. We give them advice on how previous winners have coped and tell them not to spend too much in the initial weeks until the win has sunk in," the spokeswoman added.

'Europe has lost a great statesman'

PARIS (AP) - World leaders expressed admiration yesterday for former French President Francois Mitterrand on the day of his death, calling him a statesman, a patriot, and above all a great European.

Tributes to Mitterrand, widely considered the most important French leader since Gen. Charles de Gaulle, poured in from around the world.

"Europe has lost a great statesman in Francois Mitterrand," declared German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, perhaps Mitterrand's closest personal friend among foreign leaders.

"I am mourning a good friend. We worked together in a close and trusting way for many years in the building of Europe and the deepening of German-French friendship," Kohl added.

Mitterrand and Kohl worked tirelessly to construct the European Union, putting together the controversial Maastricht Treaty that calls for a single currency and a common defense and security policy among the 15 EU countries.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, another friend of Mitterrand's, eulogized what he called the former president's "virtues as an intellectual and statesman of a great and neighboring country, and as architect of European unity devoted to peace, stability, prosperity and solidarity of all peoples who participate in it."

South African President Nelson Mandela called him a "colleague and brother" and a "staunch supporter of the struggle for democracy in our country."

Mitterrand, who served two seven-year terms as president of France from 1981 to 1995, died yesterday at his Paris office of prostate cancer. He was 79.

British Prime Minister Marg-

aret Thatcher, a tenacious opponent of Mitterrand's European and economic policies, paid tribute to the former leader.

"Over his many years as president, and by his bearing and his

culture, he seemed to symbolize for the rest of the world something of the essential France," Lady Thatcher said in London.

"Although our political views were very different, I liked and respected him," she added.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak mourned Mitterrand, who spent the Christmas holiday in the Egyptian city of Aswan, as a man "whose life was full of giving to his country and people."

The Socialist former chief executive of the European Union, Jacques Delors, who along with Mitterrand and Kohl was instrumental in designing the Maastricht Treaty, said that for him "the strongest moments were those concerning European integration, and I owe him very much."

British Prime Minister John Major, who like Lady Thatcher before him has frequently disagreed with Mitterrand on the construction of a united Europe, especially the creation of a single currency, also expressed sadness.

"He faced a very serious illness with exceptional courage and dignity," Major said in London.

Czech President Vaclav Havel, a personal friend of Mitterrand's, was reported by a spokesman to be "deeply moved" by the death of the former French president.

During an official visit to what was then Czechoslovakia, Mitterrand invited Havel and a number of other dissidents to a breakfast at the French Embassy in Prague in December 1988. It was the first sign of international recognition to the signers of the Charter 77 human rights manifesto.

Far-right revives controversy over Mitterrand wartime role

PARIS (Reuters) - France's far right National Front yesterday revived controversy about the wartime role of the late ex-president Francois Mitterrand when it praised his reluctance to apologize for state involvement in persecuting Jews.

As tributes poured in for Mitterrand, who died yesterday after a long battle with cancer, the Front injected a dissonant note with some backhanded praise.

"Francois Mitterrand showed more moral courage than his successor [Jacques Chirac]. Despite pressure from his friends and all sorts of lobbies, he quite rightly refused to recognize France's responsibilities in the persecutions of which Jews were victims," said National Front secretary-general Bruno Gollnisch.

The anti-immigration party, headed by the fiery and outspoken Jean-Marie Le Pen, advocates "France for the French" and has shown growing strength in recent elections.

Gollnisch was referring to a controversy which raged in the final years of Mitterrand's presidency when the Socialist head of

state turned down appeals from Jewish groups and Resistance veterans asking that he publicly recognize French complicity with occupying German forces in rounding up 76,000 Jews from France and sending them to Nazi death camps during World War II.

Mitterrand argued that the French republic, itself abolished by the collaborationist Vichy regime, could not apologize for crimes committed by the Nazis.

Within weeks of taking office last year, Chirac publicly recognized French complicity in the deportation of the Jews.

Mitterrand's attitude was made even more controversial by new revelations about his own role as a minor Vichy official before he belatedly entered the Resistance where he played an important role from 1943.

Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld was especially critical of Mitterrand in recent years because he had ordered that wreaths be laid in his name at the tomb of Vichy leader Philippe Petain in tribute to Petain's role as a World War I field commander.

Jury begins deliberations in Maxwell fraud trial

LONDON (Reuters) - The jury in the trial of Robert Maxwell's sons, Kevin and Ian, began its deliberations yesterday to decide whether the publishing magnate's sons conspired to defraud the Maxwell pension funds.

Judge Nicholas Phillips handed the case to the jury of seven women and five men after a complex 121-day trial, billed as Britain's biggest fraud case.

"What I invite you to do now is to retire to consider your verdicts and to let me know when you have reached verdicts upon which you have all agreed," the judge said.

Kevin Maxwell, Maxwell's youngest son and heir-apparent, is accused of conspiring with his father before his death on November 5, 1991, to defraud the Maxwell group pension fund by using £100 million (\$155 million) of its shares in the Israeli company Scitex.

He is also charged along with his older brother, 39-year-old Ian, and former Maxwell company director Larry Trachtenberg, 42, of conspiring to defraud by risking £22 million (\$34 million) of pension fund shares in another Israeli company, Teva Pharmaceuticals, to obtain a loan for Robert Maxwell's main private company.

All three deny all the charges against them.

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Chronology of the life of the ex-French president

- PARIS (AP) - A chronology of Francois Mitterrand's life:
- 1916: Born October 16 in Jarnac, a village in southwestern France, fifth of eight children of a railroad stationmaster who later inherited a vinegar business.
 - 1937: Graduates with degree in law from prestigious Institute of Political Sciences.
 - 1940: Wounded near Verdun, taken prisoner by Germans. Escapes in 1941.
 - 1942: Works in war prisoners' affairs in the Nazi-backed Vichy government, at one point writing reports on "anti-national" Gaullists and Communists.
 - 1944: Oversees war prisoners for Charles de Gaulle's Free French government.
 - 1947: Named veterans' minister after year in National Assembly for conservative party.
 - 1959: Elected mayor of Chateau-Chinon, holding post until 1981.
 - 1962: Elected for second time to National Assembly.
 - 1965: Loses presidential race to De Gaulle.
 - 1971: Helps found Socialist Party; named its leader.
 - 1974: Fails in second presidential bid, barely losing to Valery Giscard d'Estaing.
 - 1981: Wins presidency by defeating Giscard, embarks on controversial nationalizations and other leftist policies, forcing capital flight from France and a devaluation of the franc.
 - 1983: Turns back on free-spending policies after repeated devaluations of the franc.
 - 1986: Shares power with conservatives after Socialists lose legislative election.
 - 1988: Re-elected to second term; Socialists regain control of Parliament.
 - 1992: Aggressive campaign brings passage of referendum on Maastricht treaty calling for common European currency, borders, defense and foreign policy. Mitterrand undergoes surgery for prostate cancer as financial scandals damage Socialists.
 - 1993: Again must share power after conservatives win crushing victory in parliamentary election.
 - 1994: Undergoes second operation. Pierre Pua's controversial biography reveals details concerning wartime collaboration.
 - 1995: Ends second seven-year term May 17.
 - 1996: Dies Jan. 8.

James Brown grieves over wife's death after surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP) - James Brown and his wife had a tumultuous yet loving relationship, and the singer is distraught over her death following cosmetic surgery, his attorney said Sunday.

"They had their differences, their ups and their downs, but they've always been together," Buddy Dallas said. "It's not been an easy relationship, but it's been an intense love relationship."

Adrienne Lois Brown, 47, died Saturday at Century City Hospital, two days after undergoing the undisclosed cosmetic surgery.

An autopsy was conducted Sunday, but coroner's Lt. Deborah Peterson refused to release the results.

The hospital and a coroner's spokesman have said there was nothing to indicate Brown's death was related to the surgery or foul play.

Mrs. Brown first accused her husband of assault in 1988 but later dropped the charge. She filed charges against him again last March but they were dismissed.

Brown was arrested October 31 after his wife told deputies in Aiken, South Carolina, that he hit her in the face. Brown was charged with criminal domestic violence and released on \$940 bond.

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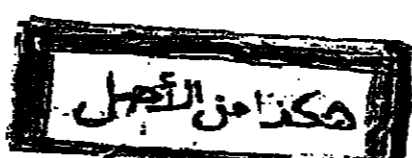
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US court: Condom distribution okay

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court yesterday rejected a challenge to the distribution of condoms in public schools.

The justices, without comment, turned away arguments that such a condom-availability program in Falmouth, Massachusetts, schools wrongly interferes with parents' right to guide their children's moral upbringing.

In upholding the program last July, the state's highest court said, "Parents have no right to tailor public school programs to meet their individual religious or moral preferences."





Turkey's PM Tansu Ciller, who resigned after last month's elections, walks past parliament members yesterday before the opening ceremony in Ankara. President Demirel is expected to meet party leaders soon to name a new prime minister. (Reuters)

Turkish gov't to probe prison rebellion

ANKARA (AP) - As hostage-taking and hunger strikes spread throughout Turkish jails yesterday, the government gave in to leftist inmates' demands for a probe of the storming of Istanbul prison where three inmates were killed.

The justice ministry announced that in addition to the probe of the deaths on January 4, it was ousting two top administrators of Istanbul's Umraniyeh prison, where prisoners had rioted to protest conditions.

It was not immediately known if the announcement convinced any of the rebelling prisoners to release their hostages.

Prisoners also want more flexible visiting hours, no censorship on periodicals and an end to intimate body searches.

The removal of the administrators was another of the demands of the inmates at six prisons throughout Turkey yesterday, where prisoners either took hostages or went on hunger strikes. In all, 29 guards and wardens

were being held yesterday.

But while the government gave in to those demands, police were cracking down on leftist sympathizers outside prison walls. Saying they wanted to head off violence, police detained 500 hundreds of suspected leftists at funerals for the slain inmates.

Most of the funeral-goes were detained if they were not close relatives or otherwise deemed "suspicious," police said. It was not clear whether the detained would be released or kept on charges.

When the remaining people protested the detentions and refused to attend the funerals, police officers ended up burying the dead, the Anatolia news agency reported.

Some 650 inmates also went on a hunger strike yesterday in the cities of Bursa, Adana and Gaziantep.

Twenty-three wardens and guards were still being held hostage at Istanbul's Bayrampasa and Izmir's Buca prisons.

A delegation of lawyers, human rights activists and Justice Ministry officials have been shuttling between Umraniyeh and Bayrampasa prisons in Istanbul since Sunday afternoon.

The inmates are demanding an investigation into the killing of the three prisoners during the riot at Umraniyeh and improved prison conditions.

"The officials reportedly accepted most of the demands of political inmates," said Selver Maras, a member of prison commission of the Istanbul Human Rights Association.

Soldiers and special police teams reinforcing the existing security personnel at the prisons were on standby in case the Justice Ministry decided to take action.

"There could be an operation in the Buca prison," Zeki Gungor, Turkey's prison director, was quoted as saying in the daily Yeni Yuzul. Gungor denied earlier press reports that he had resigned.

Record-setting blizzard batters Northeast US

NEW YORK - A raging blizzard battered the northeastern United States under record snowfalls yesterday, closing businesses and schools, stranding travelers and forcing plans to reopen the federal government.

The storm blanketed the Eastern seaboard with snow, with a record 30 inches (76 cm) in Philadelphia, almost 28 inches (71 cm) in Newark, New Jersey, and 19.5 inches (49.5 cm) in New York's Central Park, the National Weather Service said.

The nation's capital looked like a ghost town as the storm accomplished what the long-running budget dispute between President Bill Clinton and the Republican-led Congress had failed to do - shut down the federal government entirely.

Local media and officials in the blizzard area reported at least 30 weather-related deaths.

There were two deaths in Pennsylvania, and another three people were found dead out of doors in Philadelphia, but officials said they could not be sure whether they had died from exposure.

There was no mail delivery in New York, Washington, Boston and Philadelphia, and airports in Washington, Philadelphia, New York and Boston were closed. Overseas passengers hoping to land in New York found themselves being deposited in Bangor, Maine.

Some 1,800 people were stranded at New York's airports, "and they're not going anywhere because they can't get out, by car, by bus or by plane," an airport spokeswoman said.

Airports in New York and Boston were not likely to reopen until tomorrow morning, officials said.

By midafternoon, the storm had dumped 19.5 (49.5 cm) inches of snow in Central Park, making it the third-heaviest storm on record, and snow was still falling. Staten Island got 27.5 (69.8 cm) inches. Across the Hudson River in New Jersey, Newark Airport had a record 27.4 (69.5 cm) inches.

City weather records date to 1869, and in that time only two storms have surpassed 20 inches of snow in Central Park. The re-

cord, 26.4 (67 cm) inches, was set in December 1947. The other big storm was the famous Blizzard of 1888, when 21 (53.3 cm) inches fell.

The storm's impact was felt around the world. The UN was closed, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher was forced to cancel a scheduled departure for Paris.

Emergencies were declared in New York City and Boston as well as at least eight Northeastern states. Mayor Thomas Menino closed most city agencies in Boston, and New York Gov. George Pataki called out the National Guard to transport doctors and nurses to their jobs.

New York City schools were closed for the first time since 1978, and New Yorkers of all ages were making the best of the snow day - cross-country skiing down major avenues and sleigh riding in Central Park.

Meanwhile, southern California was basking in its hottest weather in more than three decades with temperatures in Los Angeles peaking at 87 degrees (30C) on Sunday.

Bosnian Serbs threaten exodus around Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Diplomats said yesterday that separatist Serb leaders have threatened to order an exodus from around Sarajevo unless they are granted a delay in the handover of Serb-held districts to the Moslem-led government.

The move could trigger a crisis for peacekeepers anxious to avoid civilian upheaval in the Bosnian capital after opening roads and clearing frontline flash-point areas.

On the military front, NATO got tougher as security was stepped up before a visit by US President Bill Clinton.

The alliance ordered heavily armed Apache helicopters on patrol and warned it was ready to hit back with deadly force at gunmen attacking troops.

Momcilo Krajisnik, hardline speaker of the Bosnian Serb assembly, has asked for a decision by tomorrow on delaying until

September 15 the transfer of authority from Serbs to Moslems around Sarajevo, diplomats said.

In a letter to the High Representative for Bosnia, Carl Bildt, Krajisnik hinted at possible violence in Serb-held areas due to revert to government authority under the peace accord.

"We have succeeded, hitherto, to persuade our people not to embark on a mass exodus, not to burn houses and not to engage in any form of revenge," Krajisnik's letter said.

"However... since the final fate of Serb Sarajevo is unknown, a mass exodus could occur at any moment, probably not without bloody incidents," the letter said, repeating his belief that Sarajevo Serbs could not accept government rule.

Bildt's delegation said he had no authority to grant the delay. Diplomats in Sarajevo said

Krajisnik's plea was a tactical move clearing the way for an order to Serbs to quit their homes, possibly to be announced next Friday.

Serb police so far have prevented thousands of Serbs from leaving the suburbs, but authorities have already moved out industrial machinery and other property from the area.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, under international pressure to reassure residents in Serb-held districts, said his government was likely to declare an amnesty for Serb soldiers who have not committed war crimes.

"We do not want an exodus of Serbs from Sarajevo because it would show that a multi-national community in Bosnia is not possible," said Izetbegovic after meeting visiting German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

Coalition endorses Hashimoto as PM

TOKYO (AP) - Japan's next prime minister said yesterday his top priorities will be improving relations with the United States and putting the nation's economic recovery on track.

Trade minister Ryutaro Hashimoto won the official endorsement of the ruling coalition yesterday, meaning that he is certain to win a parliamentary vote Thursday for prime minister.

Speaking to reporters in the Parliament building immediately after his selection, Hashimoto said he was concerned about US-Japan ties after the rape of a 12-year-old girl on Okinawa, allegedly by three US servicemen.

"In the future, our relations with the United States will be the most important for Japan, and other countries as well are seeking a stable Japan-US relationship," Hashimoto said. "We must make those ties deeper."

He didn't go into detail, but the remarks underlined the conciliatory tone Hashimoto has adopted in recent months toward the United States after he took the lead in acrimonious auto trade talks last year.

In the face of Hashimoto's hard-line stand, the US side dropped its demand that Japan guarantee American makers of

cars and car parts a certain share of the Japanese market.

Hashimoto said his other top priority will be keeping the economic momentum going. Japan appears to be recovering slowly from a four-year-old recession, but Hashimoto said more needs to be done to restore confidence in the banking system, which is overwhelmed with bad debt.

Hashimoto's selection came just three days after the sudden resignation of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and indicated how the ruling coalition has closed ranks in the face of the threat from the opposition New Frontier Party.

Iraq: Jordan meddling in our internal affairs

AMMAN (AP) - Iraq accused Jordan of meddling in its internal affairs and suggested that the kingdom was serving Western objectives aimed at undermining Baghdad.

A statement by Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Sahhaf yesterday carried by the Iraqi News Agency criticized Jordanian calls for pluralism in Iraq.

It was the first public Iraqi response to repeated Jordanian criticism of the kingdom's eastern neighbor and one-time ally.

Sahhaf said remarks by his Jordanian counterpart Abdul-karim Kabariti were regarded as "interference in the internal affairs of Iraq."

"Mr. Kabariti does not know anything about Iraq and he has not visited our country to find out for himself the reality of our people and country," Sahhaf said.

"It is obvious for everybody that known foreign sides are using humanitarian issues for political purposes," he said, referring to international sympathy for Iraq's 18 million people straining under crippling international sanctions.

Jordan has been outspoken about the plight of the Iraqis. It blames the policies of their government for their continued suf-

fering under the embargo imposed by the United Nations five years ago.

The kingdom, which fell out with many Arabs because of its perceived tilt toward Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over Kuwait, has become a harsh critic of the Baghdad government to rehabilitate itself into mainstream Arab politics.

In August, King Hussein granted asylum to a senior Iraqi army defector and intensified a campaign for pluralism and democracy in Iraq, which is ruled by the totalitarian Arab Baath Socialist Party.

Hussein also suggested a federation between the Kurds in northern Iraq, Sunni Moslems in the center and Shi'ites in the south as a possible solution to Iraqi crises.

Without naming the king, Sahhaf criticized such proposal and said: "This means the whole world should become federated or confederated."

"This [suggestion] applies to Jordan because of the internal characteristics of the society which is dominated by Palestinians with the presence of minorities such as Circassians, Chechens and Bedouins," he said.

Algerian forces kill 36 Moslem guerrillas

PARIS (Reuters) - Algerian troops have killed 12 Moslem guerrillas in a siege in the southern town of Laghouat and 24 other rebels in four days of operations across Algeria, official reports said yesterday.

Algerian state-run radio said security forces had been laying siege to an area of Laghouat, 320 km south of the capital Algiers, since Wednesday and had killed 12 rebels.

Firemen and doctors were tending to "citizens harmed in this operation," the radio added without elaborating. "In order to prevent the criminal gang from escaping, the operation is carried out in very tight conditions," the radio said.

Laghouat is used as a transit town by militants heading to

northeastern provinces. The official news agency APS quoted an official security statement as saying security forces shot dead 24 Moslem guerrillas in four days of operations carried out in 12 regions.

Up to 50,000 people have been killed in Algeria's war between Islamic militants and the army-backed government since early 1992, when authorities canceled general elections the Islamists were set to win.

Algerian President Liamine Zerroual, who won a presidential election in November, told his new government on Sunday to step up preparations for parliamentary and local elections, seen by the authorities as a way of helping end the conflict.

Five dead in Jakarta floods

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - The worst flooding to hit Indonesia's capital in two decades has killed at least five people and forced more than 30,000 to flee their homes, officials said yesterday.

The bodies of the victims were found near the floodgates of the overflowing Ciliwung River, said Kuseni Budiantoro, head of the Jakarta public order office.

The Ciliwung cuts through Jakarta, an overcrowded city of 10 million people, before emptying into Tanjung Priok harbor at the northern tip of the city.

Ex-Guatemalan FM wins presidential poll

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) - A former foreign minister who promised to further democracy in Guatemala proclaimed himself winner yesterday in the presidential runoff, topping a rival who had planned to include a former dictator in his government.

"The people have chosen a better future," Alvaro Arzu, leader of the Advanced National Party, said at party headquarters as supporters celebrated the results of Sunday's runoff with fireworks and cheers.

"We will not fail you," the 49-year-old Arzu said. "We are going to work intensely over these next four years."

With ballots from all 330 municipalities counted, Arzu had 671,354 votes, or 51 percent, compared to 639,404, or 49 percent, for Alfonso Portillo, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal said.

Portillo, of the Guatemalan Republican Front, had no immediate comment on the results.

Only 36 percent of the country's 3.7 million eligible voters turned out for Sunday's runoff, the third presidential election in the Central American country since three decades of military rule ended in 1986.

Both candidates had promised to tackle rising crime, poverty

and the falling judicial system, and to continue talks to end a 35-year civil war with leftist guerrillas that has claimed 120,000 lives.

Much of the campaigning focused on the candidates' links to past military governments. Arzu served as a tourism official under former dictator Gen. Romeo Lucas Garcia, while Portillo, 44, had the backing of Gen. Efraim Rios Montt, the dictator who presided over one of the bloodiest stages of the civil war after a 1982 coup.

A former foreign minister, Arzu heads the Advanced National Party that holds 42 of the 80 seats in the legislature.

Hungary's Gorbachev, Grosz, dies at 65

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Karoly Grosz, Hungary's former communist leader and known as Hungary's Gorbachev for unrelenting reforms that destroyed the system he believed in, died on Sunday. He was 65.

Grosz died at home kidney cancer after a long illness, the official news agency MTI announced yesterday.

Grosz was Hungary's prime minister from June 1987 to November 1988, and leader of the ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers Party (HSWP) until June 1989, when he became a member of a four-man party presidium.

He will go down in history as the man who wrestled power from veteran communist leader Janos Kadar at a party conference in May 1988, ending the Kadar era which began in November 1956 when Soviet tanks crushed Hungary's anti-communist revolt.

Grosz transformed the political scene in Hungary after becoming prime minister, infusing a previously unimportant post with power by means of forthright speeches and television interviews.

Afghanistan rebel group: No beard, no job

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) - Leaders from the rebel Taliban faction in southern Afghanistan say that unless men grow beards in line with strict Islamic practices, they won't be allowed to work except as street sweepers, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Street cleaning in much of the Islamic world is considered among the lowliest of jobs.

Taliban rebels, many of whom are former Moslem religious students, say clean-shaven men are breaking with Islamic rituals, Pakistan's English-language newspaper *The News* reported.

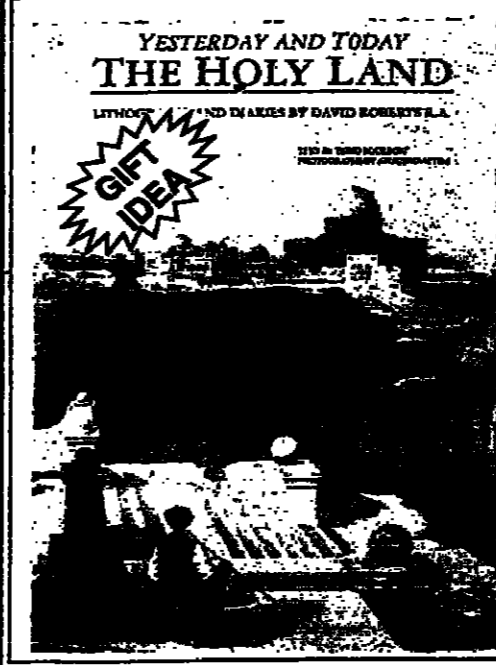
Since entering the Afghan civil war in late 1994, the Taliban has captured much of the southern half of the country.

Where they have assumed control, group leaders have forced

residents to live by a strict Islamic conduct code. Women must give up their jobs, girls' education is limited and men are expected to meet with Moslem prayer and dress rituals.

The Taliban, encamped on the southern outskirts of the capital, Kabul, have vowed to topple President Burhanuddin Rabbani and impose their form of Islamic government throughout the country.

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION: The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Remena, Jerusalem 91001
Telephone 02-513800, Fax 02-589937. CIRCULATION: 10-315941, Fax 02-589017. ADVERTISING: 02-515608, 02-515637-40
Fax 02-589006. TEL. AVIV: 5 Ruvoh, Hamasger, P.O. Box 28298 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333, Fax 03-6390277. HAIFA: 20 Nordau,
Hadar Hacarmel, Telephone 04-623166. Published daily, except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Ltd. Printed by
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The resignation of K.

TO his credit, General Security Service head K. submitted his resignation almost immediately after the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Although the unprecedented and inexplicable failure of the GSS to protect the premier seemed at the time like no more than a tragic low-level blunder, the GSS head assumed "ministerial" responsibility and offered to quit. Wisely, Prime Minister Shimon Peres rejected his resignation. The disarray and shock in the GSS would have only been exacerbated by the precipitous resignation of its chief.

But the commission investigating the November 4 disaster, headed by former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar, has apparently concluded that K. may be at least partly responsible for the fateful security failure. In a December 18 letter, it warned him that he might be held accountable for not apprising his own forces, as well as the police, of pertinent information on the possibility of an assassination attempt.

Ironically, K. has always been considered an expert on the danger posed by Jewish extremists. In fact, criticism of his appointment as GSS head last year focused on his preoccupation with Jewish underground movements and his reputed lack of expertise on Arab terrorism. Developments have proved the opposite. GSS

achievements against Arab terror have been spectacular in the past year. It has failed miserably in its handling of Jewish extremists.

This failure is by no means confined to the inability of its bodyguards to protect Rabin. Nor is it limited to the lack of communications between those who were warned about the plan to attack Rabin and their colleagues. There was obviously something wrong with the way GSS agent Avishai Raviv was used by his handlers. The line between the legitimate planting of an informer in extremist groups, and the unacceptable activation of an agent provocateur who led such a group, incited violence and committed crimes, was apparently crossed. The Shamgar Commission will be derelict in its duty if it does not investigate how and why this crossing occurred, and what role it played in the assassination.

Such practices were introduced before K. was appointed GSS head - which is why yesterday's report that his immediate predecessor Ya'acov Perry might be asked to replace him are worrisome. What the GSS needs now is the leadership of an untainted outsider of unimpeachable integrity capable of reexamining its policies, procedures, failures and challenges. Several high-ranking army officers fit this description. It is to be hoped that Peres will choose one of them to head the GSS.

Francois Mitterrand

THE death of former French president Francois Mitterrand yesterday was no less a shock for being expected, following his long battle with prostate cancer. Mitterrand was probably the last of the truly great post-World War II European leaders, as Prime Minister Shimon Peres pointed out, in a warm tribute which should be endorsed by all Israelis. Peres's description of Mitterrand as a cultured man and a consummate politician who was one of the outstanding leaders of the 20th century could not be more accurate.

As Peres also said, Mitterrand was a friend of Israel who understood the complexities of the Arab-Israeli conflict; a statesman whose honesty enabled him to win the trust of both Israel and the Arab states.

Like all exceptional leaders, he could of course be controversial. He was criticized for declining to recognize France's responsibilities in the murders of Jews by Nazis and their French collaborators. But he did explain clearly that in his view the French Republic, itself abolished by the Nazis, should not accept responsibility for the actions of the Vichy government. It may not be a viewpoint Jews can agree with, but it can be respected without rancor.

Mitterrand had a brief flirtation at a minor level with Vichy, but he more than made amends for his mistaken first perception of the regime with a distinguished career in the Resistance, and a turn to the socialist ideals that guided his subsequent political career. A man of his people, he possessed all their infuriating anarchic independence, as well as their charm, culture and love of life.

In more hypocritical Anglo-Saxon societies,

a man of his position could never have survived the story of the three great loves in his life - his wife Danielle, his mistress Anne Pingeot, and his daughter by Pingeot, Mazarine. Mitterrand not only survived, but treated all three women with gallant loyalty, endearing himself to the public for this typically romantic French arrangement.

In 1992, Mitterrand made his ninth visit to Israel, the second during his tenure as president. Even before his 1981 election to the presidency he was a tireless fighter for Soviet Jewry, often displaying rare courage and tenacity in badgering the Soviets. And in 1982, he announced an end to the 15 years of estrangement begun by De Gaulle's 1967 arms embargo against Israel.

True, France was also the first Western country to open a PLO office and welcome Yasser Arafat, and under Mitterrand, pro-PLO policies were pursued with zeal. Whatever the outcome of the Middle East peace process, its inception at least proved that Mitterrand was a visionary. He cannot be blamed if lesser mortals fail to live up to his vision.

As former president Chaim Herzog said, in proposing a toast to Mitterrand during his visit, there are few nations which have so influenced the way mankind thinks as the French. And few politicians have influenced the way the modern French think as Francois Mitterrand.

In the minds of Israelis, France is forever associated with the concepts of liberty, fraternity and equality - concepts which Israel alone adheres to in the Middle East. His passing is a deeply sad event for this country, whose people join the world in offering sincere condolences to his mourning nation.



OLEG 96

Here's to small parties

AMONG the many hard questions Israel faces as a democracy, the proper number of political parties should be the easiest. If people vote for a party, then that party fills a need. If it didn't fill a need, they wouldn't vote for it.

Still, in what is otherwise a deregulating, de-monopolizing society - a society that proudly encourages its members to choose among freely competing health funds, TV stations, cellular phone companies, and hamburger chains - there are calls to reduce the political choices available.

Maybe it comes with being American-born, but every election year I spend at least five minutes daydreaming. Ten, if I'm really mad. I think maybe I'll go for it, I'll take on the system, I'll run. Shouldn't everyone be able to run for legislature, in a democratic state?

But here, you need to belong to a party, of which all the currently successful examples are sort of unpalatable. And it's no use trying to call yourself a party if you aren't one, because you need to win two seats, or else you're excluded from the Knesset. If you win only one seat, why can't you claim that one? Because the people with lots of seats made a rule against it.

And to get on the ballot you need to post a large sum of money. If you win, then the money is returned. If you lose, then the government keeps it, to teach you a lesson.

What with one hurdle and another, almost every new party has failed unless it's either a splinter of an old party, or a fan club for a general. And my 10 minutes of

MARK L. LEVINSON

daydreaming are gone before I've even set up my folding table on the sidewalk. Or figured out who sells a folding table in this country.

BUT THE splinters and generals carry on, preventing the absolute majority that each of the big parties want. The frustrated giants, the two big parties, glance around the globe and see happy Tories in England, happy Republicans in America, enjoying the fruits of a

Long may they proliferate

districted system where winner takes all.

Why in the name of all that's well-oiled, they cry, must Israel persist with proportional representation?

They too have election-year daydreams, these partycrats. Those dreams involve defragmenting the Knesset politically-by-fragmenting the electorate geographically.

If the country were carved into districts, then challengers could lose all representation not just with one percent of the vote, but with 10, 20, or more. Look at the US, where angry voters again and again attempt to create a third major party, and fail every time.

How to convince the voters that it's better to have fewer choices? That it's better for minority parties to be deep-sixed in advance at the ballot box before they can speak their minds at the Knesset?

By selling the districting itself as a kind of improvement in service, a way of delivering the government's kind attention to your very door like an insulated pizza.

You'll have your very own representative, they tell us, when what they mean is he'll have his own district. With lines of geography shattering their electorate like a chocolate bar smashed on a table-top, the smaller parties will lose viability, and the large-party candidates will have whole halves of the political spectrum assured to themselves.

Neither Labor nor Likud has a past that inspires much confidence in its handling of increased power.

Their new tools will be powerful indeed, for a downside scenario: funneling taxpayers' money disproportionately to districts where voters need pampering, or to where independent voices need drowning-out; stirring up easily stage-managed local conflicts to divert attention from national issues; using a Knesset majority to fiddle the district borders, or to further slant the election laws.

Some people have blamed the small parties for extortionate demands on the large ones. But as long as small parties are plentiful, the big ones can play them against one another, choosing which ones to accommodate. And the parties that play on both sides are the voters, by proxy, each coming to terms with the other's wishes.

If the small parties go away, then the playing is ended and the winner will make the terms, forevermore.

The writer is a Herzliya-based freelancer.

Other messages are valid too

FOR years now some of us have been voicing concern over what we perceive as the "hijacking" of religious Zionism by the radical right.

So deep has certainty in the messianic nature of our time become that we have moved out of the terrain of sober halachic analysis into unfamiliar territory in which complex problems are dealt with by strident emotional fiat and black-and-white decree.

Differences of opinion are dismissed out of hand as an attempt to obstruct the inexorable march towards a manifest destiny. Anyone disagreeing has become fair game for harsh personal attack and eventual demonization, with clearly tragic results.

New-found awareness of the fundamental problems created by messianic Zionism, however, is not enough. To regain our footing, we must address the potential vacuum created when doubt over the messianic message of the State of Israel is raised.

For the religious Zionist, what is left? What alternative models, if any, enable us to find religious significance, even holiness, in a secular Jewish state lacking the complete certainty implicit in the phrase *reshet zmanai gesulatinu*, the beginning of the flowering of messianic redemption?

Fortunately for us, the questions are not new. There are at least two "religious Zionist" alternatives to the definitive "messianic model," each based upon its own halachic and philosophical foundation.

First and foremost, the State of Israel is holy because it saves Jewish lives.

How strange that, 50 short years after the Holocaust, we need to remind ourselves of this basic fact. The aliyah from Morocco, Yemen, Ethiopia, Syria, the

SHMUEL GOLDIN

USSR, Albania, and so many other countries bears eloquent and dramatic testimony to the state's physically redemptive properties.

Harder to quantify accurately is the pervasive redemptive effect the state has had even upon those Jews who have not made aliyah.

Are not Jews throughout the world prouder, safer, more Jew-

What is left for religious Zionists when the messianic nature of our time comes into question?

ishly identified because of the existence of Israel?

I recently returned from a synagogue mission to the Jewish community in Morocco. There, for example, the monumental voluntary closing of a 2,000-year-chapter in Jewish history stands in stark contrast to the fate of European Jewry. Only Israel's existence has enabled the Moroccan Jews to choose to leave.

Accepting the physically redemptive qualities of the State of Israel as a basis for religious Zionist philosophy requires a heightened sensitization to the concept of *khal*, or universal Jewish brotherhood.

All Jews are precious, no matter what their background or observance level. If the existence of a Jewish state under Jewish rule saves the lives of Jews, then the state is of incalculable religious significance.

A SECOND, more parochial model for religious Zionism

emerges from ancient biblical and rabbinic sources, and is perhaps expressed most clearly by the Ramban in the 12th century.

Basing his position on biblical texts as disparate as the dream of Jacob at Beth-El and the second paragraph of the *Shema*, the Ramban postulates that religious completeness on all levels of Jewish experience exists only in the land of Israel. Even those commandments which are not clearly connected to the land are only "complete" when performed in Israel.

A Jewish state that enables Jews to live and practice their Judaism in "complete" fashion in the land of Israel is clearly of immeasurable importance to the religious Zionist, regardless of whether or not that state is definitively the "beginning of the flowering of messianic redemption."

The suggestion of uncertainty concerning the messianic nature of Israel does not mitigate against hope. There remains a vast difference between knowing that the State of Israel is definitively the beginning of the messianic era, and hoping that it might be.

The former approach leads inevitably to acts which cross the boundaries of normative Judaism - all in the name of a certain messianic vision. The latter approach places the burden squarely upon us to fulfill our obligations, as outlined in our tradition, toward God, each other, and ourselves.

The writer is spiritual leader of Congregation *Ahavath Torah* in Englewood, New Jersey, an instructor at Yeshiva University, and founding chair of *Shvil Hazahav*, a group of Orthodox rabbis, educators and lay leaders.

She said, I said

SARAH SHAPIRO

MY friend and I were talking. She's left, I'm right. She's not religious, I am.

She said, did you mourn Rabin?

I said, how can you ask me that? Don't you know me by now?

She said, someone religious I know at work seemed to condone it. I said, knitted kippa, or black?

She said, I think modern Orthodox. She doesn't cover her hair.

I said, I was mortified that a religious person did it. I was depressed for a month.

She said, the religious have always made us feel our claim on being Jewish is less valid. For the first time, I can hold my head up high. We put the Peace Now bumper sticker back on our car.

I said, my son got his order to register for the army a few weeks ago. You think I don't want peace?

She said, I spoke to a woman who had five sons in the army one after another, and one of them was killed. The woman said, we've tried it the other way, and

Coffee, and a talk about what matters

it didn't work. We have to try something else now.

I said, and if this doesn't work? People were dying all the time the old way. It can only get better.

Can you imagine a scenario in which it would get worse?

In such a case, the army would go in. The Oslo agreement has a lot of built-in checks and balances. I don't think anyone has forgotten about survival.

And the Palestinian Covenant? It says they will dismantle the Zionist entity step by step.

She said, I don't think it helps us to see them as wanting to destroy us, because then they see us that way. When they stop feeling so desperate economically, they won't be interested in killing us.

I SAID, you want to give up the Golan?

She said, the army has electronic surveillance. We don't need the land.

I said, I'm waiting for Arafat to say the magic words: We no longer seek the destruction of Israel. It would be nice, as long as we're making peace with him.

She said, he would be assassinated if he said that. I said, what do you think that signifies?

She said, you only focus on the negative. Look how much has changed. Hussein cried at the funeral. Five years ago no one could have imagined that.

I said, two weeks ago 25,000 members of Hamas proclaimed on banners at a rally that they'd bury the children of the Zionists in the garbage dumps of Palestine.

She said, you only look at the negative. I said, you only look at the positive. What about Arafat saying he wants to liberate Jerusalem?

She said, he only wants East Jerusalem. They're there, anyway.

I said, liberating half of Jerusalem is not what he talks about. She said, he paid a condolence call on Leah Rabin. Who could have imagined that five years ago?

I said, I just wish Leah Rabin would say, now I understand what Miriam Lapid went through. Now I understand Dalila Yairi. Now I understand Leon Klinghoffer's wife...

She said, I just wish I could hear religious people say that their reality isn't the only reality. A cheeseburger's not the end of the world.

I said, it's the erosion of our historic identity.

She said, Yigal Amir eroded our identity.

I said, true. She said, before the assassination I used to feel I had no right to talk.

I said, that's how I felt after the assassination. I want another cappuccino. Tell me everything's going to be all right.

She said, the Children of Israel walked on dry land through the sea.

I said, you, of all people, depending on a miracle?

Pass the sugar, she said.

The writer is a Jerusalem-based freelancer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BICYCLISTS

Sir, - Who could believe that a driver of one of those fuel-guzzling, polluting, speeding automobiles would complain about bicyclists ("Put the brakes on bicyclists," *Money Magazine*, December 27). Isn't that like the elephant complaining about the mosquito? Unfortunately, J.G.'s assumptions about cyclists are a motorist's skewed view and for the most part wrong.

If cyclists are involved in 10 percent of accidents in Israel, that means cars, trucks, buses, those annoying scooters and even pedestrians are involved in 90 percent. But "involved" in an accident and "causing" an accident are two different things, and I'm sure if J.G. would look at statistics, he would find that in the majority of that 10 percent, the motorist is at fault.

J.G. would also like cyclists to obey "rules of the road" and have their bikes approved as roadworthy. That would seem a fair request, but looking deeper, we find that is not the case. If cyclists are to follow "rules," then cyclists must be given "rights" just like motorists. In Europe and America, cyclists are held accountable under such rules, but they also have bike paths and bike lanes where they can travel unmolested by cars. There are no such facilities in Israel. Also in America and Europe, drivers are cautioned in their training to watch out for cyclists. Why do drivers here feel their automobile entitles them to the right of way over cyclists?

J.G. would also have cyclists pass driving tests like moped operators. Again, a good idea in theory, but the plain fact is a moped or scooter has a motor and is a motor vehicle. Bicy-

cles are ridden by anyone regardless of age. And at what age would these tests be given? Does my neighbor's five-year-old have to take a test before he ventures into the street on his bike? If he doesn't, then why should I? Are we to discriminate on account of age when it comes to these tests? Wouldn't it be more practical for parents to take the responsibility to instruct their children in bike safety and road courtesy when they teach them how to ride?

As someone who rides my bike nearly 20 kilometers a day to and from work I agree that cyclists should have roadworthy bikes and should operate them responsibly, using the established rules of the road. I also believe the police should be more diligent in enforcement of traffic rules when it comes to bikes. But I believe the main onus is on the drivers of motor vehicles to watch out for cyclists, give them the right of way where required, and treat bicycles as vehicles sharing the road, not competing for it.

Ramat Aviv.

REUTERS

Sir, - In view of the antisemitic and anti-Israeli story run by Reuters and exposed by Mr. David Bar-Ilan and in view of the outrageous follow-up explanation instead of the required correction and apology (see Reuters letter to Mr. Bar-Ilan, *Eye on the Media*, December 15), don't you think it is time for the *Post* to consider purchasing its news from other news agencies, if not less antisemitic, at least more reliable?

Petah Tikva.

ASSAULT ON TRUTH

Sir, - I was very happy to read your editorial of December 25 entitled, "Arafat and the church." I am only sad that you had to write it and that our Christian leaders, who should have done so, have remained silent and fearful.

Yasser Arafat has assaulted truth by proclaiming in Bethlehem that Jesus was a Palestinian. The term "Palestinian" did not originate until the second century CE. Christian scripture tells us that Jesus was born Jewish, that he was of the line of King David, and that he was born in the Jewish city of Bethlehem. Mr. Arafat has assaulted truth in countless other ways which I do not have space to mention here. Indeed, as someone has said, truth seems to be the main casualty of this whole peace process.

It is a tragic day for Bethlehem, for Israel and for the whole world, when truth can so carelessly be cast to the ground. It is even more tragic when so few people seem to care. Jerusalem.

JIM GERRISH

THE POWER OF WORDS

Sir, - After the tragic assassination of Prime Minister Rabin, the "left" took great pains to blame his death on the words of the "right."

Mr. Arafat calls for a jihad against Israel; he has claimed, again in the holiday week, "next year Jerusalem."

In response, the "left" consistently maintains that we must not listen to what Arafat says, rather we must watch what he does.

Either words can cause physical harm, or they can't. Why is it that the "left" always wins it both ways?

Gan Yavne. SUSAN CHASIN

Scene: Shall we trance?

NEW RELEASES
TIRZAH AGASSI

ABOUT the parties, my dear, I cannot tell you anything," says Krembo Records' Zeev Sorokin of his recent release *The Japanese Experience, Trance In Japan*. The disc is distributed through Hed Arzi.

The album has sparked questions about the local media furor over psychedelic trance raves attended by Israelis in Goa, India, and apparently also right here at home. Sorokin says he thinks that the media brouhaha occurred simply because there was a dearth of news during the last couple of weeks of '95.

"Now that the Engineer has been killed in Gaza, the journalists will be busy again. So they'll stop inventing scandals about the Israeli drug-and-dance scene," he says. "It's nothing like London, where a million people take Ecstasy on the weekend."

Speaking from Krembo's Tel Aviv harbor record shop for DJs and serious aficionados, Sorokin warily offers some thoughts about the underground party scene that thrives on the trance music that he sells.

"Trance music belongs to the outdoors," he explains, "and here we have beaches and mountains that are perfect. The trance scene has been going on here for five or six years. What people really want is to dance."

Sorokin is scornful of the dance ambience available at Tel Aviv's clubs. "People don't really dance there," he says. "They chat. But every week there are 20 to 25 underground parties in the country where people can really get loose and dance."

According to Sorokin, rather than being subversive, this scene is simply a way for large groups of people to commune, catching a breath of freedom in a society where "everybody loses their soul by the time they are 25."

Underground clubs and parties, he says, attract everyone from kibbutzniks to hippies to yuppies. "The point is to forget the lousy news and your lousy life and for six or seven hours to just dance and be happy," he explains. "If it's the tango that does it for you, fine.

But this is the kind of music that moves us."

When it is suggested that the music is far less spiritual than its "tribal love rock" equivalent of the '60s or '70s, he agrees.

"You do feel the influence of groups like Pink Floyd," he concedes. "But this generation is less naive. They don't think they're part of some great cosmic change. But every track tells a story in melody. The bass drum is there to keep you moving. It's not like House music where the bass drum is the main thing."

"House is just a background for DJs to improvise over. But people who like trance listen to the melody. It's full of variety," he insists, incredulous at the idea that any listener could find it simply boring. "Can't you hear the variety?"

Sorokin is obviously devoted to this music, a form which is, interestingly enough, bringing European success to a couple of Israeli acts like Harel Persky, Trust in Trance and Krembo's own Chakra and Edi Mis.

When asked about another trance album that has just come out on Kasbah Records, a subsidiary of Helicon, Sorokin is dismissive.

"The *Transadelic Experience*? Oh that's just commercial."

Both albums have the same pulverizing programmed drum beat. But on further listening, one does feel a difference. Though the spacey tones of Kuro and Masa's *Japanese Trance* don't exactly fit most of the images expected from titles like "Incense" or "Dalai Lama," they are very proficiently put together, full of driving energy and, yes, their spiraling tones are even beautiful in an unfamiliar way.

The offerings of *Transadelic Experience* are more mixed, some being quite pretty, others vaguely humorous. It also includes some thought-provoking, if awkwardly executed, verbal efforts at hypnotic suggestion. Telling listeners not to hurt anybody, is not a bad idea, though it could be phrased more effectively. The music could also be given more depth without sacrificing the pounding effect.



English rock reports that the 25 underground psychedelic raves here each week. (Israel Sun)

Disney fanfare for the 'King'

TOM TUGEND
LOS ANGELES

KING DAVID, a spectacular musical on the life of the Israelite monarch, will have its world premiere in September at the Roman Amphitheater in Caesarea as a highlight of the celebrations marking Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary.

The venue and date of the musical's opening were officially announced this week by Walt Disney Theatrical Productions, which will coproduce the "concert production" with European producer Andre Djaoui.

Some of America's top talents are participating in the enterprise, including Alan Menken as composer and Tim Rice as book writer and lyricist.

The pair collaborated on the current stage hit *Beauty and the Beast* and on part of the score for the animated film *Aladdin*. Rice also wrote the book and lyrics for two other musicals on biblical themes, *Jesus Christ Superstar*

and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, as well as for *Evita*.

Djaoui promises that *King David* will be "the most spectacular and dramatic production ever staged, as well as conveying a message of inspiration, hope and peace to the world."

Michael D. Eisner, chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company, commented that, "We are tremendously excited about this important musical event. David's life is one of history's greatest stories and is a marvelous subject for a serious yet entertaining concert."

According to a Disney spokeswoman, other *King David* have not been announced yet.

However, an earlier item in the *Los Angeles Times* reported that the musical is expected to tour worldwide, including a stop in Los Angeles, "before alighting on New York's Broadway and London's West End."

Lewis: Screwball hits a home run

JAN HERMAN
PASADENA

A self-described "pressure player," Jerry Lewis has shone brightly in the unforgiving spotlight of live performance throughout a long and stellar career. These days, however, the legendary performer is taking it easy onstage — or, rather, easier.

Lewis, who turns 70 in March, is tossing off a mere eight shows a week on the road, reprising his Broadway role in the hit revival of *Damn Yankees* and it seems to him more pleasurable than a vacation cruise.

"Dino and I did 56 shows a week at the Paramount," he recalled of his and Dean Martin's famous New York stage act during the 1940s and '50s. "We were there two weeks. Then we went to the Chicago Theater and played nine shows a day — 63 shows in a week."

"I was 20 years old then. OK, at 69, I've cut that down to 24 shows in three weeks."

This vintage Hollywood great, looking remarkably young in a brown polo shirt, blue shorts, running shoes and trademark aviator-style glasses, knows he's "coming around the far turn." But he likens himself to an experienced thoroughbred relaxed enough to lengthen his stride in the stretch.

"I'm at the 16th pole and I'm heading home," Lewis said on a recent morning at a hotel here, "and I'm going to celebrate my 70th birthday onstage doing *Damn Yankees*, because the rush is incredible."

Not too many years ago that would have been unthinkable. His star seemed to have set — quite apart from bad press, bad temper, derisive critics and the inevitable changes in popular taste. He sank like a stone beneath the surface of an American culture that once took him to heart and heaped him with wealth and celebrity.

His personal life hit rock-bottom. Divorce, bankruptcy, heart

surgery, bad investments, drug addiction, prostate cancer and politically correct attacks against his annual telethon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association all cut him down to less-than-giant size.

Despite his overseas acclaim as the darling of the French New Wave — a badge of valor bestowed by intellectual auteur directors and worn with pride — Lewis went from highest-paid movie-and-television star of the 1950s to Las Vegas also-ran of the 1970s, a symbol of everything uncool and square.

When asked what keeps the fire in his belly, Lewis put a leather attache case on the table, popped the latches and produced a sheet of yellow paper with a handwritten quotation from *Act One*, the autobiography of playwright Missa Hart.

"May I read you something?" he asked with elaborate but genuine courtesy. "It will help answer the question."

"The theater is an inevitable refuge of the unhappy child, and the tantrums and other childishness of theater people in general are neither accidental nor a necessary weapon of their profession. It has nothing to do with the so-called artistic temperament. The explanation, I think, is a far simpler one. For the most part, they are impaled in childhood like a fly in amber."

"The only thing I disagree with," he said, "is 'unhappy' child. The theater is the refuge of the child, period."

Lewis got a second wind for both his life and career when he married his second wife, SanDee "Sam" Pitnick, in 1983. They have a daughter, Danielle, whom they adopted the day after she was born.

Mendelssohn left in the dust; Liturgica goes east

THE ultimate decision concerning tempo rests with the conductor, but there are limits to poetic license. What Barlow Bradford, who conducted the Israeli Chamber Orchestra, did to Mendelssohn's Fourth "Italian" Symphony undoubtedly went far beyond these limits.

Bradford's tempo for the first and last movements was incredibly swift — he glided over details as if they were unimportant. The orchestra tried to keep up. The violins managed to play all the notes, in time, but the winds, with the exception of the horns, fared less well.

In the second part of the concert, Bradford introduced a requiem by British composer John Rutter (b. 1945). The requiem's cheery kitschy style was reminiscent of popular American music, perhaps even of movie scores.

The only bright spots were Bradford's dedication to the work, the competence of the Utah Chamber Artists Choir and soloist soprano Robin Caposuto, who treated us to some really fine vocal passages and some very beautiful high pianissimo notes.

Noga Theater, Jaffa, January 3
Benjamin Bar-Am

FOR the first time in 14 years, an Eastern liturgical chant was included in the *Liturgica* series. The series is presented by the Armenian Orthodox Church, a five-minute walk from Jerusalem's Jaffa Gate.

The Armenian Patriarchate Choir offered hymns and prayer chants from the liturgy and feast services, and the solo chants of Friar Goussan Aljanian and Varoujan Markarian were fascinating.

The patriarchate students, unfortunately appearing without the clergy members and their more

sonorous and well-trained voices, nevertheless conveyed the solemnity and that particular magic which is a characteristic quality of Armenian church chants.

The solo chants of Friar Goussan and Markarian were a rare treat. Their clear, pure voices and genuine spirituality made a profound impression.

Khan Theater, December 31
Ury Eppstein

A NON-Western, non-Jewish, non-Christian ritual music tradition has for the first time been included this year in the *Liturgica* series. The Kudi Ergumer Ensemble offers Sufi music from Turkey.

This music was presented in its traditional performance style, radiating a fascination all its own. The relaxed-sounding low tones of singer Yusuf Bilgin, ascending to high-pitched ecstasy, are of uncommon intensity. The free-rhythm singing, superimposed on the strictly rhythmical patterns of the instruments, reconciles seemingly irreconcilable extremes.

The instruments' changing, gradually intensifying, intricate rhythms led to powerful climaxes. Kudi Ergumer's Neybamboo flute and Derya Turkkan's *Kemence* violin, alternating with the singing, sounded like vocal duets or trios. Keyvan Chemtani's drumming was breathtaking, and Mehmet Umin Bilmez's *Ud Qanun* added a touch of joy.

Jerusalem Theater, January 3
Ury Eppstein

IN addition to being a tenor of repute, Peter Schreier is a singularly energetic conductor. In this dual role, he made his intentions clear in Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, performed in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's *Liturgica* series. Right from the

CONCERT ROUNDUP

start his fast tempo set a pace that injected freshness, drive and vibrancy into even the stately chorales, rendered here with sudden dynamic changes.

Schreier humanized the myth and did away with the solemnity and severity normally attributed to Bach. As an Evangelist, Schreier's rendition, was more dramatic than the usual image of this role.

There was something endearingly sweet about Monika Frimmer's clear, elegant, not-too-voluminous soprano. Mezzo-soprano Cornelia Kallisch's vitality and art of shaping phrases conveyed the significance of the text, and Olaf Bar's baritone was warm and mellow.

The St. Michaelis Choir from Hamburg compensated with its firm consolidation, accuracy, impressiveness and involvement what it lacked in vocal quality. Bat-Sheva Salvaldi-Kohlberg's violin obbligato was a gem in its own right.

Jerusalem Theater, January 4
Ury Eppstein

VERDI'S *Requiem* got a spirited, impressive performance by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, enlarged by the Army Chamber Orchestra, conducted by David Shalton, in the *Liturgica* series.

Barbara Dever's mezzo-soprano is a veritable vocal caress. Her opening of the *Lacrimosa* was one of the performance's blissful moments. The radiance of Andrea Gruber's soprano managed to shine through her indisposition, although her valiant struggle with the *fin* could not be quite concealed.

In the solos, the scales tipped in favor of the female parts. Rafael Rojas made the tenor's glorious opening phrase sound distant and diminutive, and so his voice

remained throughout. Alexander Anisimov's deep, operatic bass sounded pleasing, but lacked substance, sometimes seeming to fade out before reaching the balcony's back rows.

The Vilnius Choir (Jauna Muzika) and the St. Michaelis Choir from Hamburg created a full, powerful, well-balanced sound and tremendous energies, faithful to the spirit of the work.

Jerusalem International Convention Center, January 1
Ury Eppstein

THE Hillel Hebrew University Orchestra, a volunteer group consisting of students, faculty members and new immigrants, conducted by Anita Kamien, presented in its seasonal concert an all-Mozart program.

Pianist Allan Sternfield, the soloist of the D minor concerto, offered an interpretation that was as polished as it was sensitive. The peculiar magic of the work's dark undertones was delicately evoked, and so was its subdued yet all-pervading passion, while the technique was impeccable.

For a volunteer group the rendition of the demanding Symphony No. 40 was a quite remarkable achievement. Kamien seemed to impress her own exuberance and enthusiasm on the orchestra, eliciting a performance that was intensely alive. On top of that, the playing was accurate, well-shaped, significantly accented, and rich in shadings and contrasts of dynamics.

Wise Auditorium, Jerusalem, December 24
Ury Eppstein

SINFONETTA Beersheba concertmaster Yaron Prensky was the soloist in an all-Prokofiev program that included the first violin concerto in D, Op. 19, written in

Kaiser blossoms as a choreographer

AVI KAISER, who recently returned to Israel, is remembered here as an exceptional dancer. Now he is a choreographer of formidable dimensions. His *Kri-Ata* was staged at the Suzanne Contemporary Dance Company at the Suzanne Dellal Theater in Tel Aviv (January 3) with a forcefulness that used simple means to create striking images.

On a somber stage — all black except for dim white indications of staircase steps upstage to one side — 16 members of the company, in casual, sloppy attire, walked, marched, and stood still with arresting effect. They shifted in bundles that looked like the stacks of hay on which they sat or stretched without losing tension, yet they were never tense.

If the choreography was intended to show aimlessness, it was too well structured; if it was meant to show hopelessness, it was too well geared to

DANCE REVIEW

DORA SOWDEN

pace and pulse. A collage of music and sound alternating with silence did stress abstraction, but without destroying a sense of directiveness. The total result was gloomy but remained gripping. The approach to movement was new — somewhere between outright dance and symbolic drama.

SINCE THE Beersheba Ensemble has let it be known that it aims to achieve its own distinct status, one may regard its performance at the Suzanne Dellal Theater (December 29) as a sort of debut. The works presented included one by Noa Dar, one by Sa'ar Magal and the rest by Ohad Naharin, still codirector, with Naomi Perlov. They

were celebrating the Ensemble's fifth anniversary.

Undoubtedly, the dance was admirable. The point at issue, however, was not "who" but "what." Naharin's contribution showed that the company has yet to find its own choreographers. Dar is no beginner, of course, but her output has yet to show strong enough communication. Her *Lachrymosa* demonstrated her well-developed power of invention, but few undertones of dance beyond novel moves. Magal's *Pandora's Garage*, cleverly danced, was a very good try.

But it was the Naharin contribution that peaked the program. *Pas de Pepsi* needed his wit of interpretation that the conscious and capable dancer of December 29 did not match. His other works had his language but not his style. They had enough character to hold promise for the future and serve as a celebration — but not yet as a separate Beersheba entity.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15				
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	NEW	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	GOODBYE, FRIEND
#2	1	2	VERIDIA POLKER	THE CHILD IN YOU
#3	2	9	MADONNA	SOMETHING TO REMEMBER
#4	3	7	ELTON JOHN	LOVE SONGS
#5	7	13	FILM SOUND TRACK	DANGEROUS MINDS
#6	5	9	VARIOUS ARTISTS	NOW 32
#7	8	9	VANGELIS	VOICES
#8	RE	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	BEST OF 95
#9	14	5	FILM SOUND TRACK	PRISCILLA
#10	6	39	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	APPLES AND DATES
#11	RE	1	RITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#12	4	15	ARKADI DUCHIN	ARKADI DUCHIN
#13	11	16	BJORK	POST
#14	10	3	SAGE	BEST OF
#15	18	2	THE BEATLES	ABBEY ROAD

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1996

Tax revenues up 4% in '95

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE government's tax revenues rose to NIS 84.7 billion last year, four percent higher than 1994, the Finance Ministry announced yesterday.

Since the Gross Domestic Product grew 6.9%, the national tax-to-GDP ratio declined from 33.1% in 1994 to 32.5% last year. After discounting the impact of legislative changes and increased transfers to the Palestinians, economic activity generated an additional NIS 6.3b., 8% more than the previous year in real terms.

But this is 1% lower than what the ministry said could have been achieved considering that the business product grew 8.3% last year.

The ministry said, however, that 1995 was characterized by increased housing construction activity.

This will likely translate in 1996 to intensified housing purchases, which in turn would increase tax revenues again.

The overall tax burden, including local taxes and National Security deductions, totaled 40% of GDP. This is 1.5% less than the previous year, when calculated with payments that went at the time to the various health funds.

The Treasury attributed the decline in the tax-to-GDP ratio, largely to legislation which eased the tax burden of companies, married women, and property.

Other developments which sapped the government's tax income included the transfer to the Palestinian Authority of NIS 750 million in taxes involving goods entering and exiting the autonomy, as stipulated in the Paris agreements.

Oil prices soar as snow squeezes US refineries

LONDON (Reuters) - Oil prices neared two-year highs yesterday as the eastern US was hit by the worst snowstorms in decades.

World benchmark Brent crude futures for February delivery rose to \$19.23 a barrel by late afternoon in London.

This was up 18 cents from Friday's close and just under the 1995/1994 highs of \$19.38 and \$19.41, respectively.

February futures for West Texas Intermediate crude, the US benchmark, were trading at just below \$20.50 a barrel, compared with 1995/1994 highs between \$20.80 and \$20.90.

"We went into the winter very badly placed to handle cold weather and that means it is going to take quite a while to build oil inventories back up to comfort-

able levels," said Philip Morgan, oil industry analyst at Paribas Capital Markets in London.

The US, particularly, left itself open to the effects of a cold winter as refineries turned to "just-in-time" inventory policies, which saw crude oil and other energy stocks fall to their lowest levels in two decades by the end of last summer.

"The general concern is that since hydrocarbon inventories are some 85 million barrels below last year and already lower than the winter of 1993 - one of the coldest in history - stocks could end up falling below minimum operating levels with obvious implications," Leslie Nicholas, an analyst at commodity brokerage GNI Research, said. "Whatever happens over the

next few weeks, Morgan said: "I think we'll get significant price weakness in the spring."

He is sticking to a 1996 price forecast for Brent of an average \$16.00 a barrel, implying a collapse in oil prices later in the year.

"Demand growth will be modest, [and] there'll be a price war between suppliers as oil supply, especially from non-OPEC countries will continue to grow," he said.

Even inside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, there will be pressure as Venezuela continues to produce beyond the quota it has been set by the producer groups.

"When prices do come down they are going to come down a long way," Morgan predicted.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

The telemarketing market grew 115 percent last year from 1994, according to the Direct Marketing Association, a Chamber of Commerce affiliate. Growth was expressed both in a rise in the number of companies employing direct marketing methods and increased activity among companies already using direct marketing. *Rachel Neiman*

The Tel Aviv Fund for Development has allocated \$104 million to 47 projects this year. Among the most notable were \$4m. for the redesign of the plaza between the Tel Aviv Museum and the court house on Shaul Hamelech Street; \$5m. for the construction of an auditorium at the Arab-Jewish community center in Ajami; \$6m. for the Lev Yaffo project to link the Gasher and Noga Theaters; and \$6m. for the renovation of the Mann Auditorium. *Rachel Neiman*

The Israel-Britain Chamber of Commerce is scheduled to grant awards to three companies during a ceremony today. Delta Gali Industries will receive the award for exemplary exporter, Comasco Construction Machinery and Systems will get a prize for exemplary importer and Readymix Industry (Israel), a subsidiary of the RMC Group PLC, will receive the exemplary investor award. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Vocaltec files with SEC in US

RACHEL NEIMAN

VOCALTEC announced it has filed for registration with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Underwriting the proposed initial public offering is a group led by Hambrecht and Quist (which specialize in the high-tech market) together with Lehman Brothers and Robertson, Stephens and Co.

The IPO is of 2.5 million ordinary shares, valued at between \$16 to \$18 per share.

Of that total, 1.75 million shares will be offered by Vocaltec and 750,000 will be offered by selling shareholders.

The company said net proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes, including working capital and expenditures.

Venture capital fund Mofet, one of the company's investors, said it was likely to report capital gains of between \$1.5m. and \$1.7m. on the sale on 99,750 out of a total 665,000 shares held in Vocaltec.

Mofet also announced it has realized \$252,000 in Vocaltec options, bringing its total investment in the company to \$813,000. Mofet will hold 10% of Vocaltec prior to the IPO.

Vocaltec is a five-year-old company which utilizes a unique technology to enable voice and audio communications over the Internet.

Internet Phone, the company's core product - which was first released 11 months ago - enables two users connected via Internet to conduct conversations using their personal computers.

The company's marketing methods were also unique, as Internet Phone software was purchased and downloaded directly to on-line consumers.



Crowds wait outside the visa section of the US Embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday after President Bill Clinton's submission of a plan to balance the budget in seven years allowed the US government to return to normal operations. Following an unprecedented three-week partial government shutdown, the embassy is only handling 300 applicants per day. *(Reuters)*

Arafat to ask donor nations for \$1.3b. in Paris

Snowstorm in US prevents Christopher from attending conference

PINHAS INBARI, JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and news agencies

PALESTINIAN Authority head Yasser Arafat will meet in Paris today with Israeli government officials and representatives of donor countries to present the PA's first budget and discuss future plans for development in the autonomous regions.

The PA will ask donor nations for \$1.3 billion for development, said Samih Abed, director-general of the Palestinian Department of Planning and International Cooperation.

The PA's 1996 budget totals \$600 million.

PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath was originally supposed to represent the PA in Paris, but a source told *The Jerusalem Post* that Arafat decided to go in his place to bolster his image prior to the Palestinian elections.

The first Palestinian election is scheduled for January 20.

Arafat was scheduled to meet Foreign

Minister Emd Barak and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher today, but Christopher will be unable to attend the conference due to a snowstorm in the US.

One contentious area likely to be discussed in Paris is joint participation between Israel and the PA regarding regional industrial development.

Although Israel and the PA have completed a blueprint for industrial partnership, members of the PA unofficially announced to Israeli officials that the PA is not interested in participating in joint ventures, the source said.

The blueprint was prepared to fulfill a request from the contributing nations. Israel also agreed previously to return \$306m. it collected from Palestinians for customs and value-added tax.

Finance Ministry director general David Brodet is in Paris to discuss the transfer and the payment of additional aid.

In 1993, Israel offered to give the PA \$25m. in financial assistance within five years. It has so far paid \$10.5m., and the remaining \$14.5m. is scheduled to go to the establishment of industrial parks and infrastructure.

The Palestinians are hoping that their balanced budget proposal will satisfy the donor countries and convince them to provide further assistance for the development of a port in Gaza and industrial parks.

In 1993, the donor countries offered the PA aid totaling \$2.4b. and promised to pay \$1b. by the end on 1995. To date, the PA has received \$605m., with \$200m. earmarked for local development.

To conclude the conference, the PA, Israel and the approximately 40 contributing countries and institutions will sign a trilateral statement detailing each side's responsibility toward helping the Palestinians develop the autonomous regions.

Manufacturers: Import policies endanger textile industry

RACHEL NEIMAN

GOVERNMENT import policies harm the textile industry's profits by increasing its exposure to foreign competition and will ultimately lead to the closure of profitable plants, the Manufacturers Association said yesterday.

The industry's future lies in product technology, marketing - both here and abroad - management, design, prototyping and computerization, according to the association.

Last year was a good one for the textile industry, the association reported, as exports grew

5% to \$1.1 billion, profitability rose 9% and output by 6%.

The number of those employed by the sector declined 1%, leaving the total number of textile sector employees at 53,500.

Salaries were equivalent to those in the US and UK and were between 20% to 30% higher than in Greece, Turkey and Spain.

The association said the solution was the production of sophisticated, quality goods, with piece-meal work done in neighboring countries and finishing done here.

S & P gives YES first triple-A bond rating

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

STANDARD & Poor's announced yesterday its first triple-A bond rating to Israeli-based fund manager Yield Enhancement Strategists (YES) Ltd.

A triple-A bond fund rating was assigned to four of YES's funds, which are made up of 10 sub-funds, a S&P spokesman said.

The funds are open-ended offshore bond funds.

Yield Enhancement Strategist (Israel), which manages some \$150 million, was established in 1992 to provide round-the-clock coverage of global markets in local time zones and languages.

The Jerusalem office also serves as the research and analytical center that monitors risk and assesses the market.

Founded in 1990, YES is an independently owned and SEC-registered investment management and advisory firm whose assets, as of November 1995, totaled \$275m.

Standard & Poor upgraded Israel's foreign currency debt rating to A- from BBB+ in early December.

Koor, Volvo announce partnership in Merkavim

RACHEL NEIMAN

KOOR and Volvo made official yesterday their partnership in bus manufacturer Merkavim.

"I think this is a great achievement," Koor CEO Benny Gaon said at the signing ceremony in Tel Aviv. "By signing this deal - part of Koor's strategy which we call 'joining the winners' - we believe we've saved Merkavim."

Merkavim will now be a subsidiary plant of Volvo. The strategic partnership is made up of 26 percent by Volvo (International), 24% by local Volvo agents Mayer's Cars and Trucks and 50% by Koor.

The Merkavim plant, located in Petah Tikva, produces 350 vehicles annually - assembling vehicles for Volvo, Mercedes, DAF and MAN. The company reported \$30m. in revenues in 1994.

Reaching new markets is top priority said Gaon, adding that "we believe Israel is a saturated market and are [first] looking at the regional market."

Merkavim's flagship product is the Israeli designed, developed and constructed Meteor tourist coach.

Lockheed Martin agrees to buy most of Loral for \$9 billion

NEW YORK (AP) - Lockheed Martin Corp., the biggest defense contractor in the US, will buy most of defense electronics maker Loral Corp. in a deal totaling more than \$10 billion, the companies announced yesterday.

Lockheed Martin, itself the product of a 1994 merger between Lockheed and Martin Marietta corps., plans to pay \$9.1 billion for all of Loral except for its satellite communications busi-

ness. The price includes assumption of \$2.1b. in Loral debt.

The satellite business would be separated into a new company, named Loral Space and Communications Corp., with Lockheed buying 20 percent for \$344 million.

Loral shareholders would get one share of Loral Space for every share they now own.

The deal puts a per-share value on Loral of \$45.50, a healthy 26 percent premium over the company's closing price of \$36.25 Friday on the New York Stock

Exchange. The combination of assets would form aerospace and defense companies that would have more than \$30 billion in annual revenue.

The deals represent another major consolidation in the defense business - this time focusing on electronics - as the dwindling spending from the federal government forces contractors to save money.

Loral's major products include a variety of defense and aerospace related computer systems

including radar jamming electronics for jet fighters, aircraft data and voice recorders, and air traffic control systems.

Combined with last week's Northrop Grumman Corp. purchase of defense-electronics holdings of Westinghouse Electric Corp. for about \$3 billion, the deal puts further pressure on Boeing Co., McDonnell Douglas Corp. and the Hughes Electronics unit of General Motors Corp.

Lockheed Martin will get the New York-based Loral defense-related businesses, to combine with the larger company's military-aircraft businesses and its own defense-electronics holdings. Lockheed Martin is the largest US rocket maker and is itself a major builder of satellites.

"With some \$30 billion in annual sales and a broad portfolio of businesses spanning aerospace, defense, commercial and civil programs, we are well positioned for the 21st century," said Lockheed Martin chairman Daniel Tellep, who will retain that title.

Bernard Schwartz, chairman and chief executive of Loral, will hold those titles with Loral Space, will become vice chairman of Lockheed Martin and will join its board of directors.

Schwartz said the deal "ensures our customers and employees the long-term capabilities needed in our increasingly demanding marketplace."

The deal will cause a "minimal" impact on the combined company's 1996 profits and will boost profits thereafter, said Augustine.

Lockheed currently has annual sales of \$23b. and 165,000 employees. Loral has sales of \$6.7b. and 38,000 workers.

The deal is subject to agreement by Loral shareholders representing two thirds of outstanding shares, along with antitrust reviews by US and European governments. The companies expect to complete the transaction by the end of next month.

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Tender No. 1/96

LV, HRC Fuse Bases and Links

Bids are invited for the supply of LV, HRC Fuse Bases and Links - Tender No. 1/96.

A copy of the specification and conditions of tender can be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Directors, 15 Salah el-Din Street, East Jerusalem, Tel. 282335/6/7, until January 25, 1996.

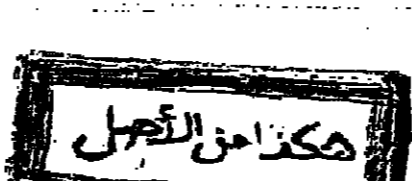
Bids should be submitted not later than 12 noon on February 15, 1996.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (\$1.06)				
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$20,000)	4.790	4.855	4.825	
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.500	4.500	4.600	
French franc (FF 200,000)	2.250	2.125	2.375	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.250	0.250	0.375	
Yen (10 million yen)				

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (\$1.96)				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.154	3.167	3.08	3.170
German mark	2.182	2.212	2.12	2.180
French franc	4.891	4.911	4.78	4.863
Japanese yen (100)	0.6220	0.6288	0.62	0.6356
Dutch flor.	1.544	1.557	1.50	1.540
Swiss franc	2.846	2.783	2.83	2.77
Swedish krona	0.470	0.479	0.48	0.473
Norwegian krona	0.4910	0.480	0.48	0.484
Danish krone	0.5901	0.592	0.55	0.551
Portuguese escudo	0.7148	0.726	0.70	0.719
Canadian dollar	2.2913	2.286	2.25	2.287
Australian dollar	2.3207	2.362	2.28	2.336
S. African rand	0.8579	0.8719	0.77	0.88
Bulgarian franc (10)	1.0539	1.0709	1.03	1.062
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0734	3.121	3.03	3.118
Italian lire (1000)	1.7728	2.0045	1.83	2.004
Jordanian dinar			4.28	4.3818
Cypriot pound			0.88	0.882
ECU	4.0143	4.0791		
Irish punt	4.8998	5.0704	4.90	5.15
Spanish peseta (100)	2.8750	2.9168	2.83	2.89

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUM



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Key Representative Rates table with columns for currency, rate, and change.

INFLATION STOCK MARKETS table listing various market indices and their values.

New York market indexes table listing major US stock indices.

Other stock market indexes table listing regional and international indices.

NYSE / AMEX table listing individual stock prices and changes.

Dollar crossrates (US) table showing exchange rates for various currencies.

Labor rates table listing rates for different labor categories.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table.

INFLATION COMMODITIES table listing prices for various commodities.

US commodities table listing prices for US-based commodities.

London metal prices table listing prices for various metals.

Spot market metals (US) table listing spot prices for metals.

New York metal futures table listing futures prices for metals.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main Tel Aviv Stock Market table with columns for stock name, price, change, volume, and market type (Multi-sided, Two-sided, Parallellist).

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK logo and branding.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various companies and markets.

Indexes fall for 2nd straight day

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET summary table showing index values and changes.

INDEXES fell for a second straight day yesterday, after two mutual funds - Danot Discount and Hapoalim Mutual Funds - started selling shares.

Declining shares included Maof Index-listed chemical companies. Dead Sea Works Ltd. fell 2.5%...

FTSE ends at new high

LONDON (Reuters) - The FTSE Index closed at a record high as oil stocks advanced and the Dow Jones Index made early gains...

Blue-chip stocks rise in blizzard-shortened session

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks rose yesterday in a three-hour session shortened by a crippling blizzard in the Northeast...

WALL STREET REPORT

Exchange and the Nasdaq stock market all closed early at 1900 GMT as the snow storm swept the Northeast...

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table showing currency exchange rates for Mark, Sterling, Yen, SF, and FF.

English clubs cautioned about acting on three foreigner rule

LONDON (AP) - England's Premier League cautioned its clubs yesterday about challenging the governing body of European soccer over the so-called three-foreigner rule.

The warning was directed specifically at Nottingham Forest, the only English club still alive in European Cup play when the competitions resume in March.

A ruling last month by the European Court of Justice in the so-called "Bosman Case" seemed to open the way from clubs in the European Union to play any EU players as they wish.

England's Premier League immediately

told its teams they were free to play as many EU players as they wanted. But UEFA, the European soccer body, meanwhile issued an interpretation contending its three foreigner limit stands.

"Our interpretation is that UEFA's interpretation is wrong," said Premier League chief executive Rick Parry.

"The right way to take that forward is ... to talk to UEFA. We wouldn't advise clubs to take the risk of breaking rules. UEFA will regard their rules as enforceable and will not doubt exercise sanctions," Parry said.

"And being tied up in the Swiss courts for

two or three years afterwards is something we all want to avoid," he added.

Parry said he was asking England's Football Association to open talks with UEFA over the interpretation.

The Premier League's top legal expert Robert Reid dismissed UEFA's interpretation of the three-foreigner rule as "nonsense." He warned if UEFA tried to continue to enforce restrictions, it would be in breach of European Community law.

Parry said top Premier League officials were to meet Thursday in Brussels with EU officials to discuss fallout from the Bosman ruling.

Lara likely to play in next month's World Cup

LONDON (Reuters) - West Indies' record breaking batsman Brian Lara is likely to play in next month's World Cup after winning selection in a provisional 20-man squad, his agent said yesterday.

Lara's future has been in doubt after he refused to tour Australia in protest against a fine imposed by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control following this year's tour of England.

He was fined 10 percent of his tour fee, about \$310,000, for go-

ing "absent without leave".

Lara returned to domestic cricket at the weekend, scoring a century in trials for the Trinidad and Tobago side, and on Monday his agent Jonathan Barnett said he had spoken to the 24-year-old Trinidadian about the World Cup.

"I feel confident he will be there," Barnett said.

Barnett also said Lara would not be playing county cricket this year after pulling out of his three-

year contract with county champions Warwickshire.

Lara was quoted in yesterday's *Daily Telegraph* as saying he would be "delighted" to consider a good offer from an English county.

Warwickshire chief executive Dennis Amis said later on Monday the county were set to sign South African pace bowler Shaun Pollock after agreeing with Lara when he terminated his contract that the West Indian would not play for any other county this year.

Scrappy rookies help Oilers stop slide

EDMONTON (AP) - Rookie goaltender Joaquin Gage got his first NHL win Sunday night as the Edmonton Oilers snapped a three-game losing streak with a 3-1 win over the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

Rookie left-winger Miroslav Satan scored what turned out to be the game-winning goal at 5:36 of the second period on an Edmonton power play.

Defenseman Brett Hauer and Jason Arnott, with his 15th goal of the season, also scored on the power play. Overall, the Oilers went 3-for-5 on the night, a season best.

The Oilers built a 2-1 lead after 40 minutes, scoring twice with the man advantage.

Arnott opened the scoring at 19:39 of the first period when he converted a cross-ice pass from Doug Weight, slapping the puck into the open side of the net past goaltender Guy Hebert.

The goal helped make up for an earlier anemic power play effort which saw the Oilers manage just three shots during a five-minute man advantage following a high-sticking major to Oleg Tverdovsky.

Anaheim tied the game 1-1 at 1:22 of the second when left-winger Todd Krygier banged a rebound past Gage, making just his eighth appearance this season.

But just over four minutes later the Oilers regained the lead when Satan scored his sixth goal of the season with Anaheim's Todd Ewen off for hooking.

Satan, skating along the goal-line from the corner, banked the puck off the post before it bounced off Hebert and trickled into the net at 5:36.

Blackhawks 5, Stars 2

Eric Daze scored twice on perfect passes by Bernie Nicholls, and Jeff Hackett made 30 saves for host Chicago.

Daze has 21 goals, seven more than any other NHL rookie, and passed Jeremy Roenick as the Blackhawks' leading goal-scorer this season.

Dallas, one of four teams with 100 goals or fewer, had to play much of the game without Dave Gagner and Greg Adams. They sustained leg injuries and didn't return.

Keith Carney, Brent Sutter and Tony Amonte also scored for Chicago, which is 20-3-3 at home against Dallas since 1988 - when the Blackhawks played at Chicago Stadium and the Stars were the Minnesota North Stars.

Dallas goalie Darcy Walczuk had little chance to stop the deflection goals by Carney and Sutter that gave the Blackhawks an early 2-0 lead.

But Walczuk was directly responsible for Daze's goal at 17:50 of the first period, making a bad pass from be-



DROPPING BACK - Chicago's Jeremy Roenick fell to second in team scoring when Eric Daze scored twice Sunday night.

EASTERN CONFERENCE							WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division							Central Division						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Diff
N.Y. Rangers	28	11	7	50	181	123	Detroit	28	8	3	59	146	98
Florida	26	12	2	54	139	103	Chicago	21	14	8	50	143	122
Philadelphia	23	11	7	53	146	103	Toronto	21	14	7	49	130	118
Washington	19	17	4	42	111	104	St. Louis	18	17	5	41	105	105
Tampa Bay	17	17	6	40	116	139	Winnipeg	17	20	3	37	143	151
New Jersey	17	19	4	38	100	102	Dallas	11	19	8	30	100	124
N.Y. Islanders	10	22	7	27	112	147	Pacific Division						
Northwest Division							W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Diff
Pittsburgh	26	11	3	55	194	123	Colorado	22	13	6	50	161	117
Montreal	19	18	3	41	122	127	Los Angeles	18	18	9	41	141	135
Buffalo	18	19	3	39	123	132	Vancouver	14	15	10	38	145	138
Boston	15	19	6	38	135	127	Anaheim	15	23	4	34	122	140
Hartford	13	22	5	31	99	129	Edmonton	14	22	6	34	111	156
Ottawa	8	31	1	17	95	160	Calgary	13	22	7	33	119	137
Pacific Division							San Jose	8	28	4	27	118	183

GUESS WHICH?

Which college did Michael Jordan once play for?

Duke
Georgia Tech
North Carolina

Answer tomorrow.

Answer to Sunday's "Guess Which?": Carl Weathers was a linebacker for the Oakland Raiders before he took up acting - later appearing as boxer Apollo Creed in *Rocky*.

Rugby club Saracens signs Lynagh

LONDON (Reuters) - London club Saracens has signed former Australian captain Michael Lynagh as a player-coach for next season after a cash injection of £2.5 million from local property developer Nigel Wray.

Lynagh, 32, retired from Test rugby when Australia was knocked out of the World Cup by England last June. He is the world's leading points scorer with 911 points from 72 tests.

Saracens officials had also been talking to former French center Philippe Sella, who has played a world record 111 internationals.

"I am physically and mentally okay and retiring after the World Cup took a great burden off my shoulders. I hope I can attract more people and more good players to Saracens," Lynagh said.

AP's top 25 college basketball teams

THE weekly ranking, normally released on Mondays, was postponed yesterday due to inclement weather. This is a wrapup of last week's ranking teams and how they fared during the week.

1. Massachusetts (12-0) beat No. 3 Memphis 64-61; beat Dayton 78-58.
2. Kentucky (11-1) beat South Carolina 89-50; beat Mississippi 90-60.
3. Memphis (8-2) lost to No. 1 Massachusetts 64-61; lost to Houston 69-67.
4. Kansas (10-1) beat East Tennessee State 108-73; S. Methodist 83-61.
5. Cincinnati (9-0) beat South Florida 71-69.
6. Georgetown (13-1) beat DePaul 81-61; beat Seton Hall 85-76.
7. Connecticut (11-2) beat West Virginia 89-79; beat Miami 73-52.
8. Villanova (12-1) beat Notre Dame 76-57; beat No. 24 Boston College 94-77.
9. Arizona (10-3) lost to California 99-75; lost to Stanford 80-71.
10. Iowa (12-2) lost to Purdue 85-61; beat Minnesota 92-63.
11. Syracuse (11-2) lost to Miami 75-66; at Rutgers, ppd., snow.
12. Wake Forest (8-1) beat Furman 81-49; beat Florida State 75-73 (OT).
13. Illinois (11-3) lost to Minnesota 69-64; lost to Michigan State 68-58.
14. Georgia (10-2) beat Mississippi 74-38; lost to South Carolina 88-77.
15. Utah (9-2) beat Brigham Young 83-77.
16. N. Carolina (11-2) beat N. Carolina St. 96-72; beat Maryland 88-86 (OT).
17. Mississippi State (10-1) beat LSU 77-74; beat Florida 69-66.
18. Virginia Tech (7-1) beat Charlotte 76-60; vs. St. Joseph's, ppd., snow.
19. Duke (9-4) lost to No. 22 Clemson 51-48; lost to Georgia Tech 86-81.
20. UCLA (9-3) beat Washington State 78-73, OT; beat Washington 78-70.
21. Michigan (11-4) lost to Wisconsin 51-46; beat Northwestern 83-51.
22. Clemson (10-0) beat No. 19 Duke 51-48.
23. Texas (7-4) lost to Nebraska 85-69; lost to Rice 80-69.
24. Boston College (9-3) beat Rutgers 95-67; lost to No. 8 Villanova 94-77.
25. New Mexico (11-1) lost to Fresno State 76-75; beat Air Force 61-49.

Warwickshire set to sign Pollock

LONDON (Reuters) - English county champions Warwickshire are set to sign South African pace bowler Shaun Pollock for the forthcoming season, chief executive Dennis Amis said yesterday.

"We expect to hear from him in the next week or so and he has intimated that he wants to join us," Amis said.

Pollock, 22, made his Test debut in the recent series against England, heading the bowling averages with 16 wickets at 23.56 runs each.

He took five for 32 in England's second innings in the fifth and final Test at Newlands to set up South Africa's 10 wickets victory which clinched the series 1-0.

Pollock replaces compatriot Allan Donald, who was instrumental in Warwickshire's success last year.

Murdoch's NFL team outfoxes the competition

SPORTSWATCH
ARYEH DEAN COHEN

YOU may not be able to teach an old dog new tricks, but a fox can certainly learn some, especially Rupert Murdoch's Fox network, whose Saturday night coverage of the Packers-49ers NFC match-up was almost as perfect as Packer QB Brett Favre.

The new tricks were Fox's greatly improved statistical information, which only added to its already superb package.

In the past, Fox was outdone by rival NBC when it came to onscreen graphics and stats. Murdoch's Men obviously paid attention. This week, Fox had plenty of dandy data on hand, including play-by-play man Dick Stockton pointing out that the only time the floundering 49ers were held without a touchdown in the first half all season - as they were vs. the Packers - they lost to Carolina.

Statistics on Steve Young's performance under pressure, including the number of "huries" and sacks, were also good, but the Stat of the Week was one showing that while All-Everything receiver Jerry Rice had picked up almost 100 yards by the fourth quarter, he had 0 in RAC: Runs After the Catch. In that one graphic, Fox showed us pretty much why the Niners were on their way to becoming ex-champions - Rice just couldn't shake free once he caught the ball.

weak, especially when a tearful Pam Oliver, interviewing former Dolphins' coach Don Shula - who had announced his retirement over the weekend - asked him: "You're going to be okay, aren't you?" Don't cry, Pam - Shula's got more money than you can count.

The promised half-time highlights of the Steelers-Bills game also didn't amount to much - about 20 seconds. You could almost hear former Steeler great Terry Bradshaw growling over having been forced to cut the clips down to just a laughable blip on the screen. Sure the Bills-blown on NBC, but Fox should have been more mature and given its viewers more information on that game.

Fox rebounded during the second half, though, with Miller accurately noting that injured 49ers lineman "Harris Barton is playing on guts, but his guts don't reach his [injured] foot." He also was right on the money when he explained why a Packers receiver missed a first down: by simply forgetting to look where the markers were.

He also conjured up a nice image when he suggested that by going for a somewhat risky first

down late in the game, Packers' coach Mike Holmgren "is going to put his foot on the throat of the 49ers, and he's going to cut off their windpipe." However, his best line was when battered 49ers' tight end Brent Jones, who has had his share of injuries this season, left the field, leading Miller to quip: "Anytime you have more concussions than touchdowns, you've had a rough year." Nice work, Max.

Fox reserved their best move for last: selecting the entire Green Bay defensive unit as players of the game, a classy touch that shows just how much the folks at Fox know football. That's is why they're simply the best at bringing the gridiron into our living rooms.

PRIME Sports' last minute switcheroo - showing the Dallas-Philadelphia game while their schedule said they'd be showing the later, Colts-Chiefs game - was inexcusable. Our apologies to fans who went by the JP schedule and ended up without any football. Indianapolis and Pittsburgh are scheduled to meet Sunday at 12:30 pm, (7:30 pm in Israel), with the Dallas-Green Bay game to start at 4 pm (11 pm in Israel). To prevent any recurrence of this weekend's Prime crime, diehard fans may want to just leave the set on all night.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ajax arrives for clash with Mac. Haifa World Club Champions Ajax Amsterdam arrived here yesterday morning for a short training camp and a friendly match against Maccabi Haifa on Thursday.

The Dutch side, the current holders of the European Cup and heavily favored to retain the trophy this year, will be the main attraction at Kiryat Eliezer for the friendly, during which *Ma'arin* will name its footballer of the year.

Despite its home advantage, Maccabi Haifa will be the underdogs for this high-profile clash. The club has called on Betar Jerusalem's Eli Ohana to strengthen itself for the match. Club officials have reported great interest in the match, with 4,000 tickets having already been sold. Kickoff is at 6 pm.

Ori Lewis

Heavy snow strands teams, cancels games

The Philadelphia Eagles faced one final indignity following their loss to the Cowboys - another night in Dallas.

The Eagles were hoping to escape Sunday night after their 30-11 defeat in the NFC playoffs. But what the Cowboys did to their game plan, the snowstorm did to their travel plans.

One of the century's worst blizzards walloped the East and dumped a record 26 inches of snow in Philadelphia, preventing the Eagles from flying home.

It also forced postponement of last night's NBA game at Philadelphia between the Orlando Magic and 76ers and the NHL game in New York between the Washington Caps and Rangers and the Boston Bruins' home game against the Colorado Avalanche. No makeup date was announced for the NBA game. The Rangers-Caps game will be made up February 27, and the Bruins-Avalanche game was rescheduled for today.

Two NBA games were postponed Sunday night - Atlanta at New Jersey and Seattle at New York. No makeup dates were announced.

This was the first time the Nets had a home postponement since moving to New Jersey in 1977. The Knicks were snowed out of a game in 1993.

Two college basketball games involving ranked teams were postponed by the knee-deep snow: St. Joseph's at No. 18 Virginia Tech and No. 11 Syracuse at Rutgers.

AP

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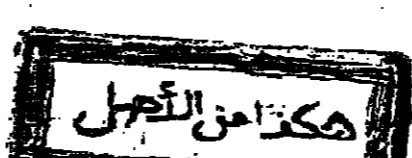
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Shohat: NIS 1.3b. in 'cuts' won't reduce budget

EVELYN GORDON

THE NIS 1.3 billion in budget "cuts" approved by the cabinet on Sunday will not reduce the total state budget at all, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told the Knesset yesterday.

Instead, the money cut from the various ministries will be used to cover other expenditures which have become necessary since the cabinet first approved the budget in late July. These include the following:

- NIS 400m. to cover the shortfall in collections of the national health tax, as required by law - NIS 200m. to cover last year's shortfall and another NIS 200m. for this year.
- NIS 425m. for the deficits in the defense industries, especially Rafael.
- NIS 240m. to cover the shortfall in the Industry and Trade Ministry's investment grant budget. Otherwise, the ministry's grant budget would have been exhausted before the year even started, after the government approved two major grants to Intel and Volkswagen for this year.
- NIS 120m. to give various benefits to senior citizens.

Shohat said that while he has been aware of these needs for a couple of months, he did not want to introduce the changes before the Knesset approved the budget last month. He said he feared that, once changes in the budget were permitted, he would be deluged by ministers and MKs demanding their own pet changes.

In addition, he said, he wanted to wait to see the year-end national account figures, to determine how much last year's budget deficit had really exceeded the 2.75% goal. Upon seeing that the actual deficit was 3.46% - largely due to lower-than-expected tax revenues - he decided that tax revenues needed to be boosted for this year to avoid a repeat of this. Therefore, he proposed the 15% gasoline tax.

"These changes [in the budget] are legitimate ones, such as occur every year," he said, trying to defend himself against charges that he had bypassed the Budget Law and the Knesset. The changes, he added, will be brought to the Knesset Finance Committee for approval.

Shohat also tried to defend himself against charges that he should have given the other ministers advance warning, in the face of liberal heckling from the opposition and a completely empty coalition bench.

"Is the elimination of the Energy Ministry still in force?" jeered Ariel Weinstein (Likud), referring to the fact that the gasoline tax increase was never discussed with Energy Minister Gonen Segev.

The changes were approved by Prime Minister Shimon Peres only on Friday, Shohat replied, and he could not have them properly printed up and distributed over Shabbat - so ministers were notified only Saturday night.

After Shohat's statement, Deputy Speaker Anat Maor (Meretz) granted Dan Tichon (Likud) five minutes for a "personal statement" in response, over Shohat's objections. Shohat argued unsuccessfully that this is a deviation from house rules, and since the Likud had insisted on sticking strictly to the rules during the budget debate, it should do the same here.

"Nine ministers, your fellows, voted against [the budget cuts]," Tichon said during his statement. "You should get up and resign... Aren't you embarrassed? You are irresponsible, and you don't know how to manage... And, you're a criminal. You violated the basics of the Budget Law [which mandated a 2.75% budget deficit last year]."

The Likud also collected the 30 signatures needed to force a debate on the budget changes, which will be held next Monday.

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A traveler at Ben-Gurion Airport receives a 'passport' from Elhasan Friedman (far right), the chairman of Ami, The Organization to Improve the Quality of Life in Israel, and Rabbi Yona Metzger of the organization, listing 10 suggestions on how to behave while abroad. Among them: Respecting other people's property, not overeating, keeping places clean, and setting 'an example of courtesy; knowing to say excuse me, thank you, and please.' The passport reminds traveling Israelis that 'while abroad, we are ambassadors of the entire Israeli people.'

Miriam Weissman ordered free on bail

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday ordered Miriam Weissman, indicted for allegedly killing her daughter, released on NIS 50,000 bail a year after she was first remanded, and a week before the verdict is expected.

Weissman, 76, was indicted in Tel Aviv District Court last January for the murder of her daughter Natalie, 33, in December 1994. According to the indictment, Weissman smothered Natalie while she slept because she had thrown her own nine-year-old daughter down the stairs in a shopping mall. Weissman's husband, Michael, was also indicted, but charges against him were dropped for lack of evidence before the defense began to present its case.

The indictment against Weissman was based largely on the findings of Dr. Yehuda Hiss, head of the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute, who found marks consistent with smothering on Natalie's face. But he could find no evidence of poisoning. Miriam was remanded until the end of the trial, since murder suspects must be remanded if there is *prima facie* evidence against them.

The defense later demanded that blood samples be sent to a lab in the US for testing, and this lab discovered a fatal quantity of poison in the body - a finding which was confirmed in a re-examination at Abu Kabir.

Since Natalie, who had spent time in a psychiatric hospital, had tried to commit suicide in the past, Weissman appealed her remand to the Supreme Court, which decided there was still enough evidence to hold her. A second appeal, lodged after the cross-examination of Dr. Hiss, was also rejected.

However, it has now been a year since Weissman's remand, and the law states that no one

can be remanded for more than a year except under special circumstances. The state requested a special extension due to the severity of the crime, but Supreme Court Justice Dalia Dorner yesterday rejected this request.

Dorner noted that even a murderer has the right to have his trial finish within a year. To extend a remand beyond this date, the severity of the crime is not enough. The evidence must be such that, if the district court finds it reliable, it would be enough to convict the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt.

This is not the case in the Weissman trial, however, because the pathological evidence is equivocal, she said. The verdict will depend almost entirely on how the court evaluates the reliability of the competing expert witnesses.

Furthermore, she pointed out, Weissman is in no way a danger to society, and imprisonment is especially hard on the elderly.

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WEATHER

Jerusalem 9-14
Tel Aviv 11-20
Haifa 11-19
Tiberias 12-20
Afula 9-20
Safed 8-15
Beersheva 8-20
Dead Sea 15-22
Eilat 10-23
Golan 4-13

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, slight rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	03	34	cloudy
Bahia	20	28	clear
Buenos Aires	03	21	clear
Chicago	15	28	cloudy
Copenhagen	03	18	cloudy
Dublin	03	18	cloudy
Geneva	03	18	cloudy
Helsinki	03	18	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	28	clear
London	03	18	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	28	clear
Madrid	03	18	cloudy
Moscow	03	18	cloudy
New York	03	18	cloudy
Paris	03	18	cloudy
Stockholm	03	18	cloudy
Tokyo	03	18	cloudy
Toronto	03	18	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, ten of hearts, jack of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

150 Histadrut workers to keep working despite move to Jerusalem

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

SOME 150 Histadrut workers who had opted for voluntary retirement in advance of the labor federation's planned move to Jerusalem have changed their minds and announced that they will continue working.

Consequently, the Histadrut will now have to fire more workers to reduce the number of employees to 450 and cut the budget by some NIS 5 million a month, the cost of these workers' wages. In theory, the workers who opted out of voluntary retirement could now be subject to dismissal.

The Histadrut's new leadership had announced its move to Jerusalem last year, in the hope that many of the 800 employees of the labor federation would leave voluntarily.

Former Histadrut chairman Haim Ramon and his colleagues assumed that hundreds of workers, particularly women with children, would not be able to make the daily commute to Jerusalem. After bitter negotiations, the Histadrut finally offered generous severance fees of up to 250% for those who offered to quit. Nearly 170 workers decided to take advantage of the retirement plan.

Meanwhile, the Histadrut leadership reached an agreement with the remaining workers to provide transport to Jerusalem.

Histadrut to declare labor dispute at Interior Ministry

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT chairman MK Amir Peretz intends to declare a labor dispute in the Interior Ministry as a prelude to a strike, following the Treasury's prolonged ignoring of the ministry's workers' demands to improve their wages.

A labor dispute, and even more so a strike, would pit Peretz against his colleague Interior Minister Haim Ramon, the former Histadrut chairman.

During the two-week labor dispute, the workers may hold protest meetings and take other organizational steps to disrupt work.

The Interior Ministry workers' union head Natan Zabari told Peretz yesterday that the workers of all the other ministries have received pay raises over the past few years, leaving the Interior Ministry staffers at the bottom of the wage scale of 22 ministries.

Zabari said that four different interior ministers have passed through the ministry during a short period, and each one promised to improve their wages. "Just give me a month or two to

get organized [they said]. But before they did anything, they moved on. Now we have informed Ramon that our time has run out. The workers in the field are pressing for action."

The absorption of more than half a million new immigrants over the past few years has increased the work load of several cabinet ministries, whose workers received pay raises accordingly. But for some reason, the Interior Ministry workers were skipped over, he said, and continue to handle many times more people than before, with the same number of workers.

Peretz was astounded to learn that out of the 1,250 ministry employees, only 612 are employed on collective contracts, and the rest were hired on personal contracts, more than in any other ministry.

He instructed the union and the Histadrut's trade union people to look into this matter and make sure that the next wage agreement signed in the ministry does something about it.

Jacobovitz: Many national religious are departing from Jewish norms

BATSHEVA TSUR

LORD Immanuel Jakobovits, former chief rabbi of the UK, yesterday criticized the national religious element in Israeli society, saying that many of them have departed from the norms of Jewish belief and practice, giving the Land of Israel priority over the Torah.

Jakobovits was speaking at the conference of Jewish ministers and members of parliament now being held in Jerusalem under the auspices of the Israel Forum, the Foreign Ministry, and the Knesset.

"From the national religious element has emerged, not for the first time for the past year or two, an ideologically motivated murderer with catastrophic consequences for Israel as a whole," Jakobovits said. "From within the secular group, by contrast, have developed commitments to what one would

assume are primarily religious ideals about the pursuit of peace and the rejection of violence.

"The knitted kippa which had been a symbol of honor and respect has become, within wide circles of Israeli society, a mark of contempt."

"In these circumstances," Jakobovits added, "the love of the Land of Israel, assuming

priority even over the Torah of Israel, induced a departure from the norms of Jewish belief and practice."

He called on national religious elements to begin soul-searching. "Recovery can only follow a reassessment in which traditional priorities will replace the temporary aberrations... I believe that [religious Jewry] can best serve by concentrating on the quality of the land rather than on its quantity."

Labor Ministry to tighten supervision of foreign workers

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

CONTRACTORS will have to renew their permits for foreign workers during 1996, and not all the permits will be renewed for a full year, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said yesterday.

The contractors must submit their applications for foreign workers' permits for the new year by the middle of this month. Applications will only be considered if they detail the work, wage and housing terms for the workers, as well as the construction projects' timetable, Namir said.

Namir added that half of the 51,000 permits for foreign construction workers will be renewed for the first six months of the year, while the other half will be extended until the end of 1996. During the first half of the year, the Employment Service will determine whether the continued employment of so many foreign workers is justified.

The ministry's decision to tight-

en the supervision over foreign workers' employment here follows repeated complaints of employer abuse of foreign workers.

The complaints include employers holding the workers' passports, which is illegal; failing to pay them; leaving them stranded without pay or food on a building site and disappearing; and housing them in subhuman conditions.

According to Rav Lawood, an organization that helps protect

workers' rights, some employers withhold workers' pay for several months, then take them to the airport after midnight, assuring them they will receive their money after they go through passport control. Then the employers disappear, leaving the employees penniless.

In another case, Romanian workers found that \$400, rather than the customary \$100, had been deducted from their pay as a "safety guarantee," and the fee was never returned. The workers were also not paid for holidays.

Weizman to address Bundestag during visit to Germany

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman will deliver an address in Hebrew in the Bundestag next Tuesday, underscoring the "special relations" between Israel and Germany.

Some 1,000 people - including the members of both the Bundestag, Bundesrat, and the diplomatic corps - will be present as Weizman becomes the third foreign head of state to speak to the parliament in Bonn. Later, he will meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

During his state visit, Weizman will attend a Jewish memorial service at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp where he will be accompanied by his host, President Roman Herzog.

Herzog will likewise accompany Weizman during a tour of Berlin, which will include a stopover at the newly rebuilt synagogue in the eastern sector of the city. There Weizman will meet with members of the Jewish community.

Before departing, Weizman will tour the Volkswagen factory in Hanover and visit Dresden.

The visit will be preceded by a state visit to the Czech Republic, where Weizman is to arrive tomorrow.

In Prague, he will receive the Karl IV medal for his efforts in promoting peace in the Middle East. The ceremony will take place at city hall.

President Vaclav Havel will accompany Weizman on a flight to Theresienstadt, which will be followed by a visit to the Czech airbase at which Weizman spent eight months during 1948.

During the visit, Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur will sign an agreement with his Czech counterpart, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel will deliver an address to leading economic figures in Prague.

On Saturday, the president will attend services at the oldest extant synagogue in Europe, Prague's Altneuschul.

Liba'i opposes bill banning publication of army casualties without IDF okay

EVELYN GORDON

JUSTICE Minister David Liba'i yesterday promised to fight a proposed Defense Ministry bill forbidding publication of any incident involving army casualties without the approval of the IDF Spokesman.

Under the proposed bill, anyone who reported such an incident without the army's okay would be liable to a year in prison, and the interior minister would have the right to close any paper that published such a report.

The bill is meant to prevent the public from knowing that casualties have occurred until the families have been notified, so that initial publication of the event can also include the names of the dead and wounded.

Currently, the names of casualties are not published until the families are notified, but the fact that they have occurred is published immediately. This creates great anxiety for anyone with a relative in the army, since they have no way of knowing their loved one is safe until the names are published, hours or even days later.

However, Liba'i said, this amendment is inappropriate in a democratic country, since it constitutes a severe infringement on freedom of the press, even if used properly, and could easily be abused.

Furthermore, he said, it is unhealthy to create a climate of rumors regarding the occurrence of an incident, which is the alternative to immediate publication.

"In my opinion, there is justification for delaying publication of a disaster for a very short period, to make an effort to notify the families... but this delay must be the product of a voluntary arrangement with the editors, instead of a law," he said. "A legal ban will open a gateway for unreasonable use of the IDF Spokesman's veto power on the publication of news items, with no possibility of effective supervision. I will speak with the Press Council and the editors about this issue, but I do not intend to bring the proposed bill [to the Knesset]."

The justice minister does not have veto power over proposed bills, but he does have considerable influence as head of the Ministerial Committee on Legislation.

Haifa man held in connection with murder of elderly couple

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE have arrested a Haifa man in connection with the murder of an elderly couple who were found in their apartment in the central Carmel district on Yom Kippur Eve, having apparently been beaten to death.

The couple had been lying dead in the rented flat for several weeks before neighbors concerned at not seeing anybody entering or leaving the place, although a window had been left open, informed the land-

immigrated to Israel from Sarajevo in 1992.

Supt. Shlomit Binkovskiy said that after extensive inquiries, a suspect, 48, had been arrested in connection with the murders.

She said the man was suspected of having been involved in the murders with a number of other people. She said he would be brought to court today for a remand hearing, and that more arrests are expected.

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